

Turkey may postpone water conference

ANKARA (R) — Turkey may postpone a Middle East water conference due in November until after the planned Arab-Israeli peace conference, an official said on Tuesday. A foreign ministry spokesman, Ferhat Ataman, said Canada had suggested delaying the conference because it felt it stood a better chance of success if Middle East peace talks came first. "No decision has been made, but the matter is being assessed," Mr. Ataman told reporters. "We believe water will be a key factor for peace in the Middle East," he added. The United States wants to convene an Arab-Israeli peace conference in October, but no date has been set. The water conference, arranged by a Washington-based group named Global Water Summit Initiative, was to have brought Middle East countries and international donors to Istanbul. Turkey did not invite Israel, fearing that Syria would lead a boycott by Arab states if the Jewish state were present. The United States, however, was unhappy with Israel's exclusion. A Canadian embassy source said Ottawa had told Turkey it would be useful and relevant if Israel were at the conference, and that a postponement would be widely understood.

Jordan Times

Amman, Jordan's largest Arab political daily, published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية للصحافة

Iran MP's denounce 'treacherous Kuwait'

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian members of parliament denounced "treacherous Kuwaiti rulers" on Wednesday for signing a military pact with the United States last week. "The treacherous Kuwaiti rulers, by signing the military pact, are trying to officially stabilise the U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf region," the deputies said in a statement quoted by the Iranian news agency IRNA. "The aggressive and expansionist U.S. regime, by making use of the subservience of the Kuwaiti rulers, is out to gain the highest concession in order to establish military bases and greater domination over the Persian Gulf," said the statement, signed by 140 members of the 270-seat Majlis. Iran summoned the Kuwaiti ambassador on Sunday to relay its concern over the pact, which allows U.S. forces to use Kuwaiti ports and covers joint military exercises and the storing of U.S. weapons in the emirate. Vice-President Hassan Ebrahim Habibi said on Monday explanations Tehran had demanded from Kuwait about the agreement would affect Iran's relations with Kuwait. The headline Tehran daily Salam condemned the pact as a "turning point in America's aggression against boundaries of Islam and security of the Islamic Republic of Iran."

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Parliament ordinary session set for Dec. 1

AMMAN (J.T.) — The new ordinary session of Parliament which was scheduled to convene on Oct. 1 has been postponed until Dec. 1 this year, according to a Royal Decree issued Wednesday. The Lower and the Upper Houses of Parliament recessed on Sept. 5 after an extraordinary session which started July 8, last year's session started in November.

Hijacked trains reach Bucharest

BUCHAREST (R) — Thousands of armed coalminers, their faces still black from the pits, invaded Bucharest on hijacked trains on Wednesday to demand the government's removal and a freeze on prices after wage talks collapsed. About 7,000 to 8,000 miners from the Jiu Valley, Romania's biggest coalfield, arrived on two trains, some riding on tailboards, at the Banescu suburban station. Some wielded axes; others clubs and Romanian flags. The interior ministry said they ransacked several stations along the route from the Carpathian town of Petroani, 300 km west of the capital.

Turkish troops kill seven Kurds

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (R) — Turkish troops and police killed seven separatist Kurdish rebels, two of them women, in southeast Turkey on Wednesday, security officials said. They said four guerrillas of the banned Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), including two women, were killed in a clash near the town of Gene in Bingol province. The gunbattle followed an all-night pursuit of guerrillas who had fled clashes with security forces on Tuesday evening. In another gunbattle which went on through the night, three PKK rebels were killed near Yazigi village in Diyarbakir province. At least 40 soldiers, policemen and PKK fighters have been killed in the conflict in Turkey's mainly Kurdish southeast this month. At least one civilian has also been killed.

Immunity lifted off Egyptian MP

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — Parliament Wednesday stripped one of its members of his immunity, and referred him and nine others to investigation for drug dealing. All ten belong to President Hosni Mubarak's ruling National Democratic Party. The People's Assembly, or parliament, was responding to a request from the socialist prosecutor general that Ayyed Suliman Abu Sabi be stripped of immunity to be prosecuted for illegally amassing wealth through drug trafficking. Mr. Abu Sabi and another nine, whose immunity has not been touched, will appear before the socialist prosecutor for investigation in drug dealing activities.

Representation dominates PNC debate Palestinian moderates press for consensus

Combined agency dispatches from Algiers

PLO MODERATES at the Algiers PNC session Wednesday called for acceptance of the negotiations as long as Palestinians' rights are guaranteed.

During often heated discussions, moderates pressed for a consensus that the PLO agree on a Palestinian delegation to attend the talks scheduled for next month.

"We are between the options of suicide and suicide," said Yasser Abed Rabbo, a member of the PLO executive committee and an influential lieutenant of chairman Yasser Arafat.

"We have no alternative but to participate, but we have to stick to our conditions which represent the minimum basic Palestinian rights," he said. "We have to find a formula for this participation without compromising."

Discussion at the congress has concentrated on how to form a Palestinian delegation acceptable to all parties. For Israel, that means no PLO members or Palestinians from occupied East Jerusalem.

All major speakers at the council session that began late Tuesday and lasted well into Wednesday morning agreed that the PLO must have the right to name Palestinians to the talks and that the delegation should be treated as the equal of the Israeli and other Arab delegations.

PLO sources said that meant that Palestinians are represented by themselves, and not through Jordanians as proposed by the United States.

Wednesday's speakers uniformly rejected Palestinian representation within a Jordanian delegation. But an invitation to a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation is acceptable, the PLO

sources said.

Such a position reconciles hard-liners such as PLO faction leaders George Habash and Nayef Hawatmeh, who Tuesday called for rejection of the peace talks unless there are guarantees of Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories and the establishment of a Palestinian state.

The spirited applause greeting Mr. Habash's and Mr. Hawatmeh's speeches underlines the difficulty Mr. Arafat and others in favour of dialogue face in reconciling the divided PLO factions.

Khaled Al Hassan, a founding PLO member close to Mr. Arafat, appealed for support from PLO hardliners.

"It is not wise to reject participation in the peace conference, but it is not wise to accept it (unconditionally)," Mr. Hassan said. "We should be prepared to cooperate with all parties to the conflict on the basis of the Palestinian conditions."

For a moderate such as Mr. Al Hassan, considered open to the West, to join in demands about Palestinian rights indicates it will be difficult for the PLO to approve a Palestinian delegation to the peace talks about relaxation of Israeli conditions on participation, PLO sources said.

A new executive committee, which sets PLO policy, was expected to be named Wednesday night. The membership of the committee was expanded at this congress from 15 to 18 to widen the views represented and seek an acceptable response to the peace talks.

Mr. Hawatmeh, who has threatened to walk out of the congress if it supports the peace conference, said his fighters will battle on whatever the outcome.

"We pledge to continue our armed struggle alongside the poli-

tical policies and political efforts to end the Israeli occupation," Hawatmeh told the 450 members of the council.

"No, no, no to the American-Israeli formula," he said to resounding applause.

Mr. Hawatmeh and others spoke during an impassioned debate on a political statement read at a closed session Monday night by Farouk Kaddoumi, the PLO foreign minister.

The statement, a policy declaration of the PLO leadership, told delegates the PLO has no option but to approve the peace conference sponsored by the United States and the Soviet Union.

"We are facing a new world order," said Mr. Kaddoumi, who throughout his PLO career has espoused virulently anti-U.S., anti-Western positions.

"There is a new reality — international, regional and Palestinian — and what is offered the Palestinian people is the minimum where Palestinian national rights are concerned."

At issue for the 20th session of the council is whether the PLO shall approve Palestinian participation in the peace conference, planned for October. A vote is scheduled Thursday.

Mr. Habash, like Mr. Hawatmeh, was virulent in opposition. The peace conference is a plot to liquidate the Palestinian cause," Mr. Habash said. "It represents falling into the trap set by the Americans."

Mr. Hawatmeh electrified the conference by declaring that the United States has manoeuvred its Arab partners into a position that will even deny Palestinians an invitation. Instead, they would be part of the Jordanian delegation rather than a separate entity under the Jordanian flag.

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Baker: No decision on invitations

NEW YORK (AP) — The Bush administration Wednesday resumed its sputtering attempt to set up a Middle East peace conference as Secretary of State James Baker held back-to-back talks with Israeli and Arab League officials.

The administration is understood to be considering what a senior official has called "an action-forcing event" such as issuing invitations, to prod Israel and the Arabs to attend the peace conference the United States and the Soviet Union hope to co-sponsor next month.

Mr. Baker, implying he had taken up such a move in his session with Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy, said he would want to discuss it with all the parties.

"We have not made a decision on sending invitations," Mr. Baker said.

Esmat Abdul Meguid, the former Egyptian foreign minister who is secretary general of the Arab League, met with Mr. Baker after Mr. Levy left.

Mr. Levy told reporters that his discussion with Mr. Baker was "a very serious, good conversation."

He said he expressed Israel's gratitude for President Bush's call on the United Nations General Assembly in a speech Monday to nullify a 1975 resolution that equated Zionism with racism.

Mr. Baker described the meeting with Mr. Levy as friendly and said they touched only briefly on Mr. Bush's decision to delay for at least four months an Israeli request that the United States

guarantee \$10 billion in commercial bank loans to help settle up to one million Soviet and Ethiopian Jews.

Mr. Baker said he also spoke to Mr. Levy about evacuating Jews and other citizens from strife-torn Zaire, where military unrest has claimed at least 3,200 people and injured more than 1,200 people.

Mr. Baker shrugged off suggestions that the administration isn't taking a tough stance on Iraq in efforts to carry out U.N. inspections of that country's capability for creating weapons of mass destruction.

"There was great restraint exercised last year," he said, referring to the period before the Gulf war when the administration tried to use diplomacy to persuade Iraq to pull its troops out of Kuwait.

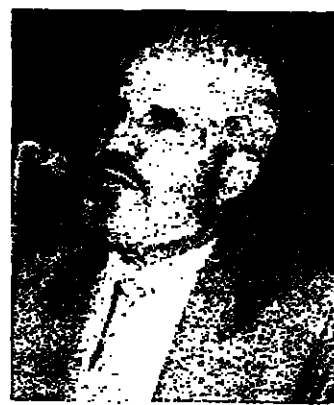
Reshuffle closer after heated cabinet debate on peace process

By Narmeen Mirrad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The cabinet held a lengthy session Tuesday over Jordan's participation in the proposed peace conference, and sources close to the government said there appeared to be a split among ministers who favoured participation and those who rejected the idea of peace negotiations with Israel.

The prime minister, Mr. Taher Masi, reportedly ended the debate that went late into the night, by asking his colleagues to think things over before those who rejected the peace option decided to stay or leave the cabinet.

According to the sources, one cabinet minister has already submitted his resignation while at least two others said during Tuesday's session that they were resigning their posts, leaving the door open for a



Rafiq Nijem, cabinet minister, which could come as early as next week.

The debate, which was described by the sources as "thorough and very responsible," centred on the Jordan's difficult political and economic situation and the need to avoid isolation from peace talks especially since Syria, Egypt and Lebanon have declared



Mohammad Faris Tarawneh, minister of state for prime ministry affairs, reportedly told his colleagues that while he understood the need for Jordan to participate in the peace conference "the idea went against his ideological dream."

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Salim Al Zabi, an Arab Nationalist, explained that he "fully understood and is convinced of the changes that are forcing Jordan to enter negotiations but that he finds it very difficult to adapt." He made it understood that he was quit-

U.S. sends missiles, troops to Saudi Arabia

Iraq holds U.N. team for 2nd day

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iraq defied the United Nations and fresh threats from Washington on Wednesday, refusing to release a team of U.N. nuclear inspectors held in a Baghdad car park.

U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said he had been unable to persuade Iraqi officials to free the 44 inspectors — held for more than 30 hours.

The U.N. team is refusing to hand over videotapes and documents seized in a search for a secret nuclear programme.

Iraq says the documents are personnel records of Iraqi Atomic Energy Commission employees. The inspectors, led by Texan David Kay, say they saw "the administrative structure of Iraq's nuclear weapons program."

Mr. Perez de Cuellar appealed to Iraqi Foreign Minister Ahmad Hussein Al Samaraei for the release of the inspectors but told reporters he received a "restatement of the Iraqi position — nothing new."

The White House demanded Iraq let the inspectors go and America's top soldier, General Colin Powell, told Congress: "The patience of the international community is wearing rather thin."

The Pentagon announced what could be the first step towards military action to force Iraq to comply with Gulf war ceasefire terms. It said it had sent 96 Patriot missiles and 1,300 troops to man them to Saudi Arabia.

The inspectors were detained early on Tuesday morning after being ordered out of a records building in the centre of Baghdad. They were guarded by 60 armed troops and security officials in an adjacent car park.

They spent the night camping out the car park, still refusing to yield after Iraq brandished Mr. Kay a CIA spy.

The inspectors waved to about 150 demonstrators — mostly children — who turned up in buses on Wednesday to denounce their search mission.

The Security Council on Tuesday night demanded the immediate release of the inspectors and said they must be allowed to take with them "all documents they deem appropriate."

Gen. Powell, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the United States already had plenty of air power in the Gulf to enforce ceasefire inspections if necessary.

He told a congressional hearing after talks with President George Bush: "The president is viewing this as a very serious matter. He has preserved all of his options."

Gen. Powell said the United States still had 35,000 troops in the Gulf region, including a "rather significant air capability" left over from the six-week war which ended when a Western Arab alliance forced Iraq to withdraw occupying troops from Kuwait.

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Israeli troops kill three Palestinians

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers shot dead three Palestinians and wounded a fourth in a clash with armed activists in the occupied West Bank on Wednesday, military sources said.

They said an army and border police force patrolling near the West Bank town of Jenin opened fire at a car whose driver refused to halt and then tried to run over one of the soldiers.

The troops shot dead two armed passengers and wounded a third when they jumped from the car with guns poised, military sources said. Three were cap-

tured unarmed.

Military sources said it was still unclear if the Palestinians fired any shots before they were killed. Israeli security sources earlier said soldiers exchanged fire with the armed group, killing three and capturing four.

Security sources said the guerrillas apparently belonged to the Black Panther group, Palestinian uprising activists affiliated with PLO's Fatah faction.

The group has attacked Arabs suspected of working with Israeli security forces.

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Another hostage will be released soon — Tehran

TEHRAN (R) — A Tehran newspaper predicted on Wednesday that another Western hostage would be released by Friday.

The English-language Tehran Times, in a report written before pro-Iranian kidnappers freed Briton Jack Mann on Tuesday, said one hostage would be released within hours and a second during the weekend, which in Iran ends on Friday.

The Tehran Times quoted reliable sources in southern Lebanon as saying: "Two, one British and one American, will be released soon."

The newspaper told Reuters the report had been prepared before Mr. Mann's release.

Five Americans remain captive in Lebanon. Joseph Cicippio was expected to be freed soon after Mr. Mann but further hostage releases will probably have to wait for Israeli action to free Arab prisoners.

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister

Ali Mohammad Besharati said in a Tehran Times interview published on Tuesday he hoped all hostages in Lebanon would be free by January.

Pro-Iranian kidnappers in Lebanon put a U.N. plan back on track for a general swap of Middle East prisoners by freeing Mr. Mann.

Meanwhile, Mr. Mann landed in Tehran Wednesday to a hero's welcome after 865 days in captivity.

The oldest Western hostage held in Beirut, Mr. Mann, 77, was released on Tuesday after being held by the Shiite Revolutionary Justice Organisation (RJO).

Israel Wednesday promised to make another gesture to end the Lebanon hostage saga once it had hard information on the fate of air force navigator Ron Arad.

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Jordanian papers 'should be doing more' to match democratic practices and achievements

By Sama Attiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A long-running tug-of-war between the press and mainly Islamic members of parliament over newspaper coverage of parliamentary activities reached a climax last week when the two sides exchanged accusations and counter-accusations in public, and they defended their respective positions on the issue of whether or not a report released by a parliamentary group should have been published in the local press.

The report in question, which was released by the lower house's Public Freedoms Committee and distributed to the house and the press on Sept. 2, gave a detailed account of alleged abuse and torture against security detainees. However, the major Arabic daily newspapers largely

ignored the report, but mentioned it after Minister of Interior Jawdat Shoul issued a statement categorically denying the allegations.

While newspaper editors rejected claims by prominent Islamist deputy Laila Shbeilat that the press had not played the role expected of it in Jordan's two-year-old democratisation process, Mr. Shbeilat and some of his colleagues in parliament continued to insist that Jordanian newspapers needed to do better in order to reflect more accurately the spirit of democratic practices and achievements in the country.

In interviews with independent observers and media experts conducted last week, the Jordan Times found a growing body of opinion which believes that Jordanian newspapers could and should be doing more to further the democratic debate, even though there was



Taher Hikmat also agreed on that not all what deputies do and say is worth coverage in the local media.

Those observers interviewed generally believe that while the three Arabic daily newspapers — Al Rai, Al Dustour and Sawt Al Sha'ab — leave a lot to be desired, the press was not bound to publish everything



Ibrahim Izzeddin that parliamentarians did, and that deputies had in the past exaggerated their accusations against Jordanian newspapers.

Former Minister of Information and leading lawyer Taher Hikmat, for example, strongly believes that deputies should not be able to impose what they want on newspapers, and that editors are free to publish

stories as they wish in their publications.

Mr. Hikmat says many deputies seek the limelight at the expense of quality and objectivity, as they can be greedy for attention, but he adds that a report like the freedoms committee's should have been covered in local newspapers.

"Even if the report was biased, it should have been available to the public so that the issue is followed up, its gaps filled and light thrown on its credibility," Mr. Hikmat says, maintaining that newspapers had the duty of informing the public of what is happening.

Mr. Hikmat shares the view with other observers that local newspapers sometimes lack objectivity in reporting and provide insufficient coverage of important issues — be they concerned with the lower house or not. They attribute this shortcoming to lack of

professionalism on the part of Jordanian journalists, to immaturity in handling the democratisation process and to the limited number of newspapers published in the Kingdom.

Some observers say that because democracy is still in its infancy stages in Jordan there has been a general lack of understanding of the new political scene that emerged with November 1989's parliamentary elections, and a lack of understanding of the importance of investigative reporting.

Ibrahim Izzeddin, who was information minister for 18 months in the Badran government, says that democracy is new and time is needed for adjustment.

More objectivity and professionalism, however, could take care of problems such as those that arose between the press

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ANZ Bank officials on visit to Jordan

TWO senior officials of ANZ Grindlays Bank begin a six day visit to Jordan this evening. During their stay Mr. Bevin Ranford, Managing Director ANZ Grindlays Bank and Senior General Manager ANZ Bank Europe, South Asia, Middle East and Africa and Mr. Barry McCance, ANZ Regional General Manager Middle East, will hold meetings with Minister of Finance Mr. Basel Jardaneh and Central Bank of Jordan Governor Dr. Mohammad Saeed Nabulsi. They will have the chance to meet ANZ Grindlays staff and customers on visits to bank branches in Amman and Aqaba.

Mr. Ranford and Mr. McCance will also take the opportunity to visit Petra, Aqaba, the Dead Sea, Jerash and other tourist sites in Jordan and will be guests of honour at a cocktail reception, hosted by ANZ Grindlays General Manager in Jordan Adnan Sallakh, at the Marriott Hotel on Monday evening.

Patriots head for S. Arabia; U.S. silent on military moves

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States sent two Patriot missile battalions to Saudi Arabia Wednesday, but gave no hint of any imminent military action despite Iraq's detention of a team of U.N. nuclear weapons inspectors.

"The deployment of U.S. Patriot missiles to Saudi Arabia, first announced last week by the president, has begun," the Defense Department said in a statement released early Wednesday.

The Patriots, used to intercept Iraqi Scud missiles during the Gulf war, will be in place in Saudi Arabia by the weekend, a Pentagon source said.

The units come from the U.S. European command in Germany. The move means President George Bush is deploying key forces should he choose to take military action against Iraq for allegedly violating U.N. ceasefire terms.

The terms bind Iraq to allow unimpeded access to U.N. teams monitoring the destruction of Baghdad's major weapons arsenals.

Iraq agreed late Tuesday to let U.N. helicopters make unrestricted flights over its territory but still held 44 U.N. inspectors who refused to surrender documents on nuclear weapons.

"Honouring the Saudi request, and following discussions between the Saudi and U.S. military over the past few days, the secretary of defence authorised the deployment of two Patriot battalions and associated support personnel and equipment," the Pentagon statement said.

Two Patriot battalions comprise nearly 100 missiles and 1,300 U.S. troops to operate them. Mr. Bush has maintained a wait-and-see attitude on any further step towards military action.

"You don't make decisions of this magnitude that could have an effect on human life without having all the information," Mr. Bush said Tuesday.

"No one is threatening force," one Western envoy on the U.N. Security Council said. "If they don't comply, we are just not

going to go away and do nothing, but that's the next stage."

Pentagon duty officer Navy Commander Mike Thurnwanger said it was too soon to tell whether Iraq's pledge to allow free access to U.N. helicopters would have any effect on the Patriot deployment. "At this point we have no indication that makes any difference."

Announcement of the Patriot deployment had been expected, following a Saudi request last week, but coincided with Iraq's detention of the U.N. inspection team.

There were reports that the Saudis demanded the missiles in return for allowing the United States to stage protective cover flights for the U.N. inspectors in Iraq, but Pentagon officials declined to comment on the reports.

Last week, a Pentagon spokesman said that the anti-missile weapons were requested by King Fahd of Saudi Arabia because the Saudis "feel threatened" by Iraq.

He said the Saudis expressed concern because Baghdad "continues to try to sidestep the U.N. Security Council resolutions on destroying their ballistic missiles."

The Pentagon has said repeatedly that Iraq has "a long way to go" in meeting its post-Gulf war agreement to disclose the full range of its chemical, biological and nuclear weapons programmes, as well as the extent of its ballistic missile programme.

Bombers sent to Turkey

U.S. F-111 bombers and radar-jamming aircraft are going to Turkey to support the Kurdish relief operation, and not because of the problems between Iraq and U.N. weapons inspectors, the Pentagon said Tuesday.

The Pentagon announced Monday that air force F-111s and EF-111s were being sent to Turkey's Incirlik air base to strengthen coalition air forces as the U.S. ground forces start to withdraw.

Asked whether President Bush could use the repositioned aircraft for a strike against Iraq, Pentagon spokesman Pete Wil-

liams said, "they would be for the purpose of provide comfort, period."

The F-111s can be used as long-range bombers, while the EF-111s have terrain-following radar and are also used to jam enemy radars.

Mr. Williams said the ground forces that have been in Turkey for the Kurdish relief operation are being phased out, "and we can now perform the mission with air units."

The pact that put the coalition's ground and air forces in Turkey was to expire on Sept. 30, but its members agreed over the weekend to reconfigure their units and maintain the "protective shield" for the Kurdish population in northern Iraq, Mr. Williams said.

The spokesman said the transfer would take place over the next 30 days, and has already begun. Mr. Williams said he did not know how many aircraft will be transferred, or how many will be in Turkey at the end of the change-over. He said he expected the new bombers and radar-jammers to come from U.S. forces based in England.

Thousands of coalition troops from Britain, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Turkey and the United States helped ease the return of 1.5 million Kurdish refugees after their failed March rebellion against the government.

At present, Mr. Williams said, there are 2,031 coalition military forces at the post of Sijil, and that 1,183 of those are U.S. troops.

Over the weekend, Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman Ferhat Ataman said the coalition would reduce the number of fighter jets, attack planes, reconnaissance aircraft and tankers in the defence force to 48. The planes are stationed at Incirlik in southern Turkey, 600 kilometres northwest of Iraq.

A coalition spokesman at Incirlik said the coalition regularly flies reconnaissance missions over Iraq north of the 36th parallel "to make sure that Baghdad is abiding by U.N. resolutions and the terms of (Gulf war) ceasefire."

Saudi king promotes, relieves Gulf war commander

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabia's King Fahd has granted his nephew and Gulf war commander his request to quit active military service.

The official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said Wednesday King Fahd, in a decree issued Tuesday, also promoted Prince Khalid Bin Sultan to full general from the rank of lieutenant-general.

Prince Khalid, a 41-year-old Sandhurst graduate, is the son of Defence Minister Prince Sultan who, SPA said, had informed the Saudi ruler of his son's wish to leave active military service.

The agency did not say why the tall and burly prince wanted to leave his job. Diplomats in the kingdom said he would now pursue business interests.

He was the Arab counterpart of U.S. army Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, who commanded a 28-nation force which defeated Iraq and evicted its forces from Kuwait in February.

The prince, who commanded Saudi Arabia's air defence forces before the Gulf crisis, spent the Gulf campaign largely in the shadow of the charismatic Schwarzkopf.

He was highly decorated by the king at a victory parade in June. "He was the Arab face of the campaign," said one Western diplomat in Riyadh, noting that after months in the limelight in and outside Saudi Arabia, the prince had virtually disappeared from the public eye in the past two months.

The diplomats said the prince, who took part in negotiating huge arms deals in recent years with the United States, Britain and France, was at one point tipped as the likely commander of a proposed joint force from the six member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

The GCC, set up a decade ago as a mainly political and economic bloc, groups Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Oman.

Kazakhstan president has talks with Ozal in Turkey

ANKARA (R) — President Nursultan Nazarbayev of the Soviet republic of Kazakhstan arrived in Turkey Wednesday and said he was keen to build closer relations.

"I am determined to improve our political and economic relations," Mr. Nazarbayev told reporters at Ankara airport. "I think Kazakh businessmen will also benefit from this visit."

He was due to hold talks with President Turgut Ozal and Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz during his five-day visit.

Mr. Ozal was at Ankara airport to meet Mr. Nazarbayev, who earlier this week was helping Russian President Boris Yeltsin mediate in the ethnic conflict between the Soviet republics of Armenia and Turkish-speaking Azerbaijan, which both border Turkey.

Mr. Ozal, who visited Kazakhstan in March, said he wanted Mr. Nazarbayev to brief him on developments in the Soviet Union and especially the peace talks between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

Both men said trade, transport and communication would figure high on their agenda and the Anatolian news agency said they were expected to sign three agreements on these topics.

"The setting up of radio, television and air transport links will enliven our relations," Mr. Nazarbayev declared.

Mr. Nazarbayev, 51, is an economic reformer who had been close to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and favours redrawing the Soviet Union as a new union of sovereign states.

Kazakhstan is one of only two of the 15 Soviet republics which have not declared their independence from Moscow.

The Foreign Ministry said he would discuss bilateral ties and

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Lebanese president demands Israeli leave

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Lebanese President Elias Hrawi Tuesday called on Israeli troops to withdraw from southern Lebanon so that his country can consolidate a fragile peace after 15 years of civil war. Mr. Hrawi told the U.N. General Assembly the under an Arab League-brokered peace agreement among Lebanon's warring factions, his government had disarmed rival militias to regain control over the capital Beirut and northern Lebanon. Mr. Hrawi said Lebanon's territorial integrity was compromised by the Israeli presence in southern Lebanon, which continues nine years after Israeli troops invaded Lebanon. Israel withdrew the bulk of its army from Lebanon in 1985. Israel, with the help of its ally, the South Lebanon Army, maintains a self-declared "security zone" along a border strip in southern Lebanon. Israel claims acts as a buffer zone against attacks. "A people's right to territorial integrity is sacred," Mr. Hrawi said. He added that Lebanon has suffered from the repercussions of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and "was particularly concerned with the search for a global, stable and just solution in the Middle East." He accused Israel of resisting Arab attempts to find such a solution.

Morocco frees air force officer

RABAT (R) — A Moroccan air force armourer, convicted of involvement in a coup attempt to shoot King Hassan's plane has been released, diplomatic sources said on Tuesday. Lieutenant Embarek Touil, 46, was jailed for 20 years for his part in the Aug. 16, 1972 attack on the king's plane as it carried him home from a three-week private visit to France. He was accused of arming three fighters who shot more than 40 holes into the royal plane but failed to bring it down. The king escaped unscathed. Lt. Touil was freed one year before his sentence was due to end after being held in an Atlas mountain fortress at Tazmamart which was recently demolished. The London-based rights group Amnesty International and other foreign human rights groups charged that military prisoners were being held in very harsh conditions at Tazmamart where at least 28 inmates had died. Rights groups said they were held in solitary confinement in an underground dungeon and never received visits from their families. But former U.S. Ambassador Joseph Verner Reed was allowed to see Lt. Touil in 1985 at his residence in Rabat on behalf of his American wife, Nancy, who lives in Nebraska. Rights groups said Lt. Touil was still in Morocco but was expected to be allowed to rejoin his wife in the United States Saturday. Diplomats said Lt. Touil's release was related to the king's state visit to Washington on Thursday and Friday. The said the Moroccan monarch was likely to be questioned about human rights record during the visit. The king has pardoned over 5,425 common law criminals so far this year and last month granted amnesty to 40 political prisoners. Rights groups in Morocco said the other Tazmamart inmates had not been released but transferred to other prisons.

Mubarak to visit Soviet Union

MOSCOW (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak will travel to Moscow on Sept. 26 and have talks with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev the next day, a presidential spokesman said Tuesday. Andrei Grachev told a news conference the two leaders would discuss a Middle East settlement, bilateral relations and some international issues. The Soviet Union and the United States are co-sponsors of a Mideast peace conference proposed for October where Egypt is expected to be a key player.

Iran says Mexican crew facing prosecution

NICOSIA (R) — An Iranian official Tuesday denied Mexican charges that Iran held 15 Mexican crew of two fishing boats as virtual hostages but said they faced prosecution for breaching a 1991 agreement to settle a strike. Mohammad Reza Khaled, head of Iran's Industrial Fishing Company, told the Iranian news agency IRNA the men were in "normal condition" and the company was ready to resolve the row with the help of the Mexican Foreign Ministry. The ministry said Friday Iranians had confiscated the men's travel documents after they demanded to be sent home following repeated breaches of their work contract by Iran. It said it might seek U.N. help for their release. Mr. Khaled said Iran had stuck to the contract but the Mexicans had broken losses of the wages was delayed by Mexican banks. The strike was settled after intervention by Mexico's ambassador in Ankara who travelled to the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas in July, Mr. Khaled said. By the two captains of the ships and another crewman who went to Mexico to find out why the payments had been delayed never returned. "The remaining Mexican crew of the trawlers who were unable to fulfill their commitments arrived in Dubai without permits and engaged in violent acts which led to their arrest by the police," Mr. Khaled said. They were then returned to the trawlers and sailed to Bandar Abbas. "The company has sustained damage... the Mexican crews of the trawlers are now under legal prosecution," the official said. The Mexican Foreign Ministry said the disgruntled workers had jumped ship in the United Arab Emirates and sought political asylum but police bundled 13 of them back aboard the ships.

Greek court postpones Palestinian's appeal

ATHENS (AP) — The supreme court has postponed until Oct. 1 the appeal of a Palestinian fighting extradition to Italy, where he wanted in connection with the Achille Lauro hijacking. Lawyer for Abdul Rahim Khatib, a 36-year-old member of the Palestinian Liberation Front (PLF) asked for more time to prepare their case, said lawyer Yannis Kouras. Mr. Khatib denies that he is the man wanted by Italy. An Italian court sentenced Mr. Khatib in absentia to life imprisonment in 1987 for masterminding the piracy on the Achille Lauro cruise liner two years earlier. An American passenger was killed during the attack. Mr. Khatib was arrested with three Greeks in Athens on March 5 after police found a bomb and narcotics in the apartment where he was staying. A three-member appeals court ruled in favour of Italy's extradition request on May 28, rejected Mr. Khatib's claim that he is an Iraqi gang owner and not the Khatib being sought by Italy. Even if the supreme court rejects Mr. Khatib's appeal, he may have to serve five or more years in Greece.

Airlift of Ethiopian ex-soldiers from Sudan resumes

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Some 174 former Ethiopian soldiers were flown home Tuesday after fleeing to neighbouring Sudan when the government of former Marxist dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam collapsed last May.

The soldiers, flown from Kassala in Sudan to the capital Addis Ababa in an aircraft chartered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), were part of a group of some 50,000 former soldiers who were based in northern Eritrea province and fled across the border.

A total of 522 former soldiers were expected to be flown from Kassala and the flights from Sudan were scheduled to continue on a daily basis until all the men were home, a UNHCR official said.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which is handling the reception of the former soldiers, said those who returned on Tuesday would be driven directly to their homes in southern Bale region.

A batch of some 3,500 former soldiers brought home from Sudan in August were taken to rehabilitation camps.

Colonel. Mengistu's once

mighty army collapsed in a matter of weeks in the face of a rebel onslaught in May. Tens of thousands of former soldiers have still not returned to their homes.

One rebel group overthrew the central government in Addis Ababa and had since called in other political factions to set up a broad-based transitional government pending elections.

Another rebel group took over in Eritrea and has set up a separate administration, stopping short of declaring independence.

Mulugetta Gebre-Hiwot, in charge of a government commission to rehabilitate former soldiers, said the men returning from Sudan would be given food and other provisions for at least five months until they could fend for themselves.

He also said the government had completed its rehabilitation and screening programme of some 100,000 other former soldiers who have been living in camps around the country.

But Mr. Mulugetta said the government needed some \$156 million to transport them home and give them food and other provisions. So far it had received just one pledge of \$34 million for the rehabilitation programme from the U.S. government.

Norwegian minister: Arms trade, scavenging should stop

KUWAIT CITY (AP) — Norway's defence minister Wednesday urged that the illegal arms trade along the Iraq-Kuwait border be stopped and that civilians be banned from scavenging weapons abandoned by Iraqi troops during the Gulf war.

Johan Joergen Holst spoke in an interview just before leaving for Syria, winding up two days of talks with Kuwaiti officials and observers from the U.N. Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM).

Norway has eight observers in UNIKOM, which patrols a demilitarised zone straddling the Kuwait-Iraq border.

A 50-member Norwegian medical team also operates a hospital in Um Qasr on the Iraqi side of the border.

Mr. Holst said the Norwegian team treated in the past three days 25 Iraqi civilians who were hurt while picking up ammunition and weapons left over by the Iraqi troops. Nine of them died later.

He said most of the casualties treated by the Norwegian medical team were from Iraq.

"This is unacceptable from a humanitarian point of view and from the point of view of UNIKOM," said Mr. Holst. "The general hospital is not for

Iraqi civilians but is part of the support for UNIKOM," he added. "It's unacceptable for them (Iraqis) to rely on that backup for illegitimate purposes. That's got to stop."

The Iraqi government, which is said to retrieve arms abandoned after the Gulf war and the Feb. 26 liberation of Kuwait, apparently is doing little to halt the scavenging.

It is reportedly rewarding the Iraqi smugglers generously when they bring home military equipment.

Mr. Holst said it was the duty of Iraq and Kuwait to police the zone against scavenging.

Under their current mandate, UNIKOM observers do not have the authority to carry weapons or to disarm civilians or military personnel.

Mr. Holst said the "sheep market" in the zone, where Iraqis and Kuwaitis trade in alcohol, arms and livestock, should also be stopped.

"Trading arms is a violation of the spirit and letter of the (U.N.) agreement," he said.

UNIKOM has 300 troops from 33 nations in the zone which extends the 160-kilometre length of the border and stretches five kilometres into Kuwait and 10 kilometres into Iraq.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 723111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Les Rations Laveurs
18:30 Les Chevaliers de Ciel
19:00 News in French
19:15 Documentary
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 The Family Man
21:10 Outings
22:00 News in English
22:30 Movie of the week: "Knights of the Round Table"

PRAYER TIMES

05:04 Fajr
06:21 Sunrise
12:27 Dhuhr
15:53 Asr
18:33 Maghrib
19:50 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 652783
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 657440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Churches of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625843

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 717131

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 717261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 717151

Assyrian International Church Tel. 827981, 665326

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824 and 654932

Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be hot and winds will be light and variable becoming at times northerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./max. temp.

Amman 19/35

Aqaba 25/36

Deserts 20/36

Jordan Valley 23/38

Yesterday's high temperatures: Am-

man 34, Aqaba 35. Humidity readings: Amman 25 per cent, Aqaba 42 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Abdul Majed Al Shahr 791405
Dr. Nidal Issa 691011
Dr. Kayed Halayqa 793222
Dr. Issam Al Asmar 892004
Firas pharmacy 661912
Fardous pharmacy 718336
Al Salam pharmacy 637055
Nairoudh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shuaib pharmacy 657660

IRBID:
Dr. Radwan Al Saad (-)
Al Shams' pharmacy (985238)

ZARQA:
Dr. Walid Halasa (-)

Khalid pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence (immediate) 891228

Rescue 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 891228

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 690221

Hotel Complaints 603800

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage 897467

Complaints 897467

Amman Municipality 787111

Telephone Information 691228

(Directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone 623181

Abdull Telephone Repair 691228

Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 691000

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power 696381

RI Flight Information 98-3320

Queen Alia Int. Airport 98-3320

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 64281/6

Al-Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Malles, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shams 664171/4

Shams Hospital 669131

University Hospital 8458/5

Al-Mashar Hospital 667227/5

The Islamic, Abdull 666127/57

Al-Ahli, Abdull 664164/6

Radia, Al-Mahajra 77101/3

Al-Bashir, J. Amman 775111/26

Aray, Marja 891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50

Amal Hospital 674133

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323

Zarqa National Hospital (09)802560

Ben Sana Hospital (09)986732

Al-Husseini Modern Hospital (09)993990

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital (02)272555

Georg Catholic Hospital (02)272275

Ben Al-Nafies Hospital (02)247100

AQABA:

Kuwait gives \$1.5 million to help Palestinian refugees

AMMAN (R) — Kuwait says it is giving \$1.5 million to a U.N. refugee agency helping thousands of Palestinians who have fled the emirate since the Gulf crisis.

The Kuwaiti embassy in Amman said on Wednesday the emirate was giving the money to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

The agency, set up after the 1948 Middle East war, helps more than two million Palestinian refugees who fled to Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Egypt after the 1948 and 1967 Arab-Israeli conflicts.

It has an annual budget of about \$250 million. Its biggest donor, the United States, contributed \$62 million last year.

Its services, mainly in education and health care, have been stretched to the limit by more than 230,000 Palestinians who fled the Gulf states after Iraq invaded Kuwait in August last year.

Most of them were forced out of Kuwait, which was incensed by Jordanian and Palestinian sympathy for Baghdad.

UNRWA's commissioner-general, Iltis Turkman, will chair a regular meeting in Amman on Thursday of donors and the four Arab states which host Palestinian refugees to discuss the agency's operations and prepare a report on its needs for the next year.

Jordanian delegation meets with Indonesian officials, discuss trade cooperation

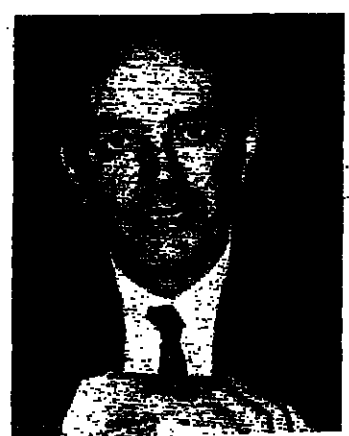
JAKARTA (Petra) — The speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, who is on a visit to Indonesia, Wednesday submitted to that country's parliament a proposal that Indonesia and Jordan cooperate in parliamentary and cultural affairs.

In an address at a ceremony held to honour the visiting Jordanian parliamentary delegation he is leading, Dr. Abdul Latif Arabiyat said that Indonesia and Jordan can also initiate extensive cooperation in the fields of industry, mining, trade exchanges and communications.

Dr. Arabiyat briefed the Indonesian Parliament on the situation in the post Gulf war era, noting that hundreds of thousands of expatriates and other refugees have been converging on the Kingdom, adding to its burdens.

The extended an invitation to his Indonesian counterpart, Hares Soboud, to visit Jordan.

Earlier Wednesday, Dr. Arabiyat was received by Indonesian President Suharto to whom he



conveyed greetings from His Majesty King Hussein and the Jordanian people. They reviewed the Palestine question and other Middle East issues.

Dr. Arabiyat also met with the Indonesian minister of economic, financial and industrial affairs to review bilateral cooperation in trade.

Doctors and specialists to receive 30 per cent raise

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers Wednesday issued a statement offering allowances to all doctors and specialists employed by the Ministry of Health after Aug. 1, 1992.

According to the statement, doctors and specialists will receive a 30 per cent raise on their basic salaries in accordance with the 1988 allowances regulations. They will also receive an additional 30 per cent allowance on their basic salaries in respect of their specialisations in accordance with same regulations.

The Council of Ministers said that the Health Ministry is now preparing a special system by which doctors employed by the government will be offered incentives on an equal footing with those offered to their colleagues working for the Jordan University Hospital.

The incentives, the statement said, will be considered in light of the volume of work each doctor or specialist handles regularly.

The Council of Ministers also decided that Minister of Public Works and Housing Saad Hayel Surour will lead Jordan's delegation to the seventh meeting of the Economic and Trade Committee affiliated to the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) due to open on Oct. 6 in Istanbul.

The council formed Jordan's delegation to visit Romania by the end of September to discuss the subject of promoting Jordanian-Romanian cooperation in energy and economic fields. The delegation to Romania will be led by Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Thabet Al Taher.

Conference calls for new measures to address country's population growth

AMMAN (J.T.) — A conference on population now underway in Amman Wednesday reviewed two working papers on water and health as related to population growth and the country's growing needs between now and the year 2005.

The agricultural sector in Jordan consumes most of the country's water resources, nearly 515 million cubic metres, while 170 million go to domestic use and 35 million for industry, according to the paper presented by Hisham Al Khatib Ahmad Qatani and Abdul Rahman Fatafrah.

The paper said that Jordan currently consumes up to 720 million cubic metres of water but by the year 2005 its annual consumption will have increased by 65 per cent in view of the population growth.

The paper said that more efficient use of water resources and the recycling of treated waste water for agricultural purposes can provide the country with additional supplies. It recommended finding new sources at Sarhan and Jafer and giving more attention to research and technological methods like desalination of sea water to make up for the shortage.

The other paper on health services in Jordan noted that population growth naturally brings with it an increase in demand for health services. The paper called on the health authorities to increase the number of beds in hospitals, build new hospitals and recruit more specialists to work for them.

U.S. IMMIGRATION

Haig V. Kalblian
Attorney-at-Law, Washington, D.C.
Fluent in English, Arabic & French

Mr. Kalblian, a highly respected corporate and immigration lawyer will be in Amman during the second half of October 1991. Appointments are now being taken. If you are interested in U.S. immigration based on the new law of 1990, a consultation with Attorney Kalblian is a must.

The new law eases immigration requirements in some of these areas:

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- Family relations in the United States

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Consultation fee - Seventy Five Dollars.
* Investment packages will be available for review.



Health Minister Mamdouh Al Abbadi holds discussions with members of Libyan health delegation that arrived Wednesday (Petra photo)

Libyan delegation arrives in Amman to discuss cooperation in health field

AMMAN (Petra) — A Libyan delegation led by Health Minister Zeidan Bader Zeidan arrived in Amman Wednesday on an official four-day visit to Jordan.

Dr. Zeidan will hold talks with his Jordanian counterpart, Mamdouh Al Abbadi, on cooperation in the fields of health between Jordan and Libya.

Dr. Zeidan said upon arrival that Libya seeks the employment of Jordanian doctors and specialists in its hospitals and health centres. Dr. Zeidan and his delegation will tour a number of

medical institutions and pharmaceutical plants to Jordan.

Last month, Minister of Labour Abdul Karim Al Dughmi announced that the Jordanian government was holding contacts with Libyan officials over the prospect of giving employment to Jordanian nationals in Libya.

Libya earlier engaged the services of a large number of Jordanian doctors and its trade delegations over the past few years concluded deals for the purchase of Jordanian national products.

The visit is the second by a Libyan delegation to Jordan this month.

Earlier this month, another delegation focused attention on economic and trade cooperation with Jordan and invited Jordanian exporters and merchants to visit Libya and acquaint themselves with the needs of its markets.

Upon their arrival, Libyan delegation members were welcomed by Dr. Abbadi and Health Ministry official as well as Libyan ambassador in Jordan.

Organisations team up to educate young about state of environment

AMMAN (J.T.) — In the framework of a national environmental information and education programme, the Jordanian Society for the Control of Environmental Pollution in cooperation with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation of Germany Wednesday opened a seminar entitled education and the environment.

A total of 72 school teachers within the greater Amman region are taking part in the two-day meeting being held at the Regency Palace in Amman.

The society board chairman, Ahmad Obeidat, addressed the opening session, underlining the importance of school education as a major factor for instilling in the hearts of the young the duty of protecting the environment.

The society is seeking to spread awareness among the public in general and the young generation in particular on the need of protecting the environment and is



seeking the help of the Ministry of Education in this regard, Mr. Obeidat said.

Yusef Ahmad, a Ministry of

Education representative at the meeting, said that plans are underway to introduce environmental education in school curricula. He called on the public to help the ministry in its new endeavour in order to protect the Jordanian environment.

The seminar aims at strengthening the relation between the society and Jordanian educators in order to activate their role in the field of environmental education, seminar organisers said.

The seminar will tackle subjects about education and the environment and will concentrate on the global and national state of the environment, water resources, waste management, waste water recycling, environmental research and science and environmental practices in school clubs.

Awqaf Ministry issues regulations for construction of mosques

AMMAN (Petra) — The Awqaf Council at the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has just published regulations pertaining to the construction of mosques in Jordan and said that no one will have the right to build a mosque without written approval from the minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs.

According to the regulations, a village, community or group of persons wishing to set up a mosque in a certain area should submit a formal request giving details about the land which would be registered in accordance with the awqaf and ministry laws.

The designs should take into account the construction of a special quarter for female worshippers, a minaret for the caller for prayers, a home for the imam and a special school for teaching the Koran.

According to the regulations,

the mosque to be built should be designed in the Islamic traditional style and a special committee enjoying the confidence and respect of the local community should be formed to take charge of all matters pertaining to the mosque.

The regulations stipulate that work on the construction of the mosque cannot start unless at least 20 per cent of the total estimated cost of the project has been secured.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Yemen on anniversary

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday sent a cable to Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh to congratulate him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian government and people on the anniversary of Yemen's Sept. 26 Revolution. King Hussein wished Mr. Saleh continued good health and happiness and the Yemeni people further progress and prosperity.

Jordanian ambassador presents credentials

BAGHDAD (Petra) — Jordan's newly appointed ambassador to Baghdad, Walid Majid Al Bataineh, Wednesday presented his credentials to Deputy Director of the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council Izzat Ibrahim. Mr. Bataineh conveyed to Mr. Ibrahim and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein the greetings of His Majesty King Hussein. In the meeting, Mr. Ibrahim lauded King Hussein's policies and his role in enhancing relations between Iraq and Jordan.

Minister: Unemployment rate doubles

AMMAN (Petra) — Labour Minister Abdul Karim Al Dughmi Wednesday said the unemployment problem and the number of the unemployed have doubled since the Jordanian expatriates started returning to Jordan in large numbers. In a meeting held at Al Mafrat Governorate, Mr. Dughmi said his ministry is doing its utmost to tackle unemployment by training qualified technical cadres to replace the foreign work force in Jordan. The ministry, he said, is ready to open new Vocational Training Centres all over the Kingdom to train Jordanian citizens looking for jobs.

29,574 more expatriates return

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 29,574 Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates returned to Jordan in the period between Aug. 6 and Sept. 24 of this year, according to Secretary General of the Ministry of Interior Salameh Hamad, who is also chairman of the Returnees Welfare Committee. He said large numbers of returnees have registered their names with the committee, which has referred the names to charity societies,

Aid programme to help Jordan absorb returnees in final planning stage

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A programme of assistance for Jordan from CARE International to help expatriates who have returned from Kuwait and other Gulf states is being finalised and further discussions are scheduled to be held Sunday, diplomatic sources said Wednesday.

The programme was discussed during a meeting in Amman Tuesday between Malcolm Fraser, head of the Brussels-based CARE International, and Jordanian officials, including several cabinet ministers, according to the Australian ambassador to Jordan, Robert Bowker.

The discussions, which were held during a working luncheon hosted by Michael Hamarneh on behalf of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, were attended by Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Thabet Al Taher, Tourism Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, Minister of Irrigation Samir Kawa and Ahmad Mango, a senior adviser to the Crown Prince. Dr. Hamarneh is director of the Crown Prince's office.

According to ambassador Bowker, the proposal for CARE assistance to Jordan is expected to be given final form Sunday when Mr. Fraser returns from Iraq. Mr. Fraser left for Baghdad early Wednesday.

The amount of assistance in value was not immediately known.

Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, chairperson of the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund, and His Highness Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, the chief chamberlain, are expected to meet Mr. Fraser Sunday.

Jordan has called for international assistance to help it cope with the situation created by the return of hundreds of thousands of expatriates from Kuwait and other Gulf states following the Iraqi invasion of the emirate in August 1990 and the war that a Western-led alliance fought against Iraq to end its occupation of the emirate.

His Majesty King Hussein met with Mr. Fraser, a former prime minister of Australia, Tuesday.

Ambassador Bowker, who attended the meeting, noted that the King visited Australia when Mr. Fraser served as prime minister of Australia during 1975-1983.

Mr. Fraser, 61, a Liberal Party leader, was succeeded by Labourite Bob Hawke, who defeated him in 1983 elections.

Mr. Fraser will review CARE International assistance programmes in Iraq. It was not immediately known whether any meetings were scheduled with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

CARE International ex-

tends relief assistance to the Iraqi people, who are suffering from the consequences of the almost 14-month-old international trade embargo on Iraq and the devastation that the country suffered during the Gulf war early this year.

CARE was originally set up as an American institution, Cooperative for American Relief Everywhere, before becoming an international non-governmental organisation. It depends mainly on voluntary contributions from the U.S., Canada and Australia. CARE extended assistance to Jordan during the peak of the Gulf crisis when the Kingdom was flooded with third country nationals fleeing Iraq and Kuwait following the invasion of Kuwait.

In Amman, diplomats said they were getting down to specifics of the Jordanian request to identify areas where their respective countries could extend help to the expatriates who have returned home.

Ambassador Bowker said Australia was considering the Jordanian call but had not got down to studying any specific form of aid to the Kingdom.

Germany became the first European country to respond to the Jordanian call with a contribution of cash assistance to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) to help the returnees.

JVA bid to conserve water draws mixed reaction from experts

AMMAN (J.T.) — A decision by the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) taken Monday to allow only one third of the total farming lands in the Jordan Valley region to be planted with vegetables and fruits during October and November has drawn mixed reactions from economists and agricultural specialists.

Dr. Ayed Al Warr, director general of the Jordan Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company (JAMPCO), said that the rationing of irrigation water in the valley was inevitable to protect the interests of all farmers.

But, he said, production of vegetables and fruit in the coming two months will be adversely affected at a time when the country is facing an influx of expatriates and returnees who have increased the country's level of food consumption.

The farmers have been offered compensation by the JVA at the rate of JD 20 per dunum unexploited in the coming two months and JVA Secretary General Abdul Aziz Wishah said that up

to JD 7,000 will be paid in total compensation under this arrangement. Out of a total of 65,000 dunums of land, only up to 25,000 will be planted with crops in the coming two months.

According to Dr. Warr, such procedures will sharply reduce the amounts of tomatoes arriving at JAMPCO's processing plants, which used to receive 20,000 tonnes each year. The measures, he said, will also reduce the amounts of tomatoes reaching local markets.

For his part, Dr. Fahd Al Azab, director general of the Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO) said that the JVA measure was a constructive step in view of the scarcity of water for irrigation.

AMO's exports will decline by 50 per cent as a result of the JVA measure but it is hoped that this will be a temporary arrangement until the rains come in the winter season, he said.

Yassin Numeimat, acting president of the Federation of Jordanian Farmers, said that the JVA measure was viewed by many as a step towards reducing the losses of local farmers who would naturally not receive sufficient water to irrigate their farmlands.

Dr. Wishah had said that the King Talal Dam, which provides most of the water for irrigation in the valley, now held 12 million cubic metres of water out of a total reservoir capacity of 86 million. The water level in the reservoir has prompted the JVA to adopt the new arrangement for the time being, Dr. Wishah said.

Economist Fahd Al Fanek said in his Wednesday column that it was regrettable to see the farmlands shrinking and production declining. Writing in Al Ra'i daily, Mr. Fanek said that arable land in Jordan constitutes only eight per cent of the total area of the country. This land is continually shrinking due to the encroachment of urban construction on the one hand and the lack of water for irrigation and the poor rainfall on the other, he said.

تحت إشراف حضرة صاحب الجلالة الملكة رانيا العبدالله

جمعية الأسيدي الواعدة

البازار الخيري الثاني

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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New look on future

AT A time when the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict remain at the threshold of entering negotiations to resolve their disputes, it would be propitious to start thinking of regional issues and perspectives that go beyond the immediate concerns of the Middle East. This is in essence what His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's speech to the meeting of the Arab-Japanese dialogue which opened at Goteborg, Japan on Monday, did suggest.

In other words, a visionary perception for the area and its people needs to be articulated as of now, even though the current problems of the Middle East have yet to be ironed out and resolved permanently and justly. In this context, a bright futuristic outline for the region presently formulated can lead additional support and stimulus for an early resolution of the Palestine conflict as well as the broader Arab-Israeli disputes. For this purpose, Crown Prince Hassan has rightly proposed a conference for security and cooperation in the Middle East as soon as a breakthrough is achieved to settle the conflicts of the area. What the Prince had in mind is a process that can draw heavily on the moral weight and long experience of the Helsinki process in Europe. Such a process, Prince Hassan explained, would have a three-pronged strategy based on energy policy, arms control and debt reduction. The first would call for an energy charter reminiscent of the European Energy Charter. One might also add other complementary concerns to the list of priority issues identified by the Prince's address, such as water resources and even a regional common market in due course.

Perhaps even more pressing than such matters is the spirit of the Helsinki accord which highlighted democracy and human rights as high priority issues that need to be nurtured and promoted. There is no way to establish lasting peace and security in the Middle East if human rights and pluralistic democracy do not take firmer roots in the countries of this part of the world. Cooperation among the states of the region and harmony between their respective peoples cannot come about without strong foundations for democracy and human rights. Fortunately, Jordan has already taken great strides in that direction. Other countries in the Middle East can be expected to initiate democratisation process within their ranks soon. When the process is completed the future of the area would look brighter than ever.

It is therefore opportune to start contemplating a conceptual framework for the future of the Middle East at this early date. The peoples of this region be they Arab or Israeli would acquire a brighter perspective about the peace process and prospects if they have a clearer picture about how the region is going to look like in the future and how its peoples are going to conduct their lives together. Prince Hassan's message to the Arab-Japanese dialogue is therefore timely and deserves closer scrutiny and greater appreciation.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily criticised the United States president for calling on the United Nations to repeal an earlier General Assembly resolution equating Zionism with racism. Such move is considered as a reward to the aggressors who are showing renewed defiance of the United Nations organisation and violating international laws by continuing to build settlements on occupied Arab lands, the paper said. By asking the United Nations to repeal its former resolution, President Bush is rewarding the Israeli aggressors who continue to occupy other countries' territory, said the paper. Immediately after Mr. Bush's call to the world organisation, the Israeli prime minister announced that the building of settlements would go on unhindered even if Israel did not receive the loan guarantees from the United States, the paper continued. It is clear that the U.S. president's request was ill-timed and did not serve its purpose; it only prompted Israel to display further defiance to the world community, the paper added. It seems, said the paper, that Mr. Bush's request to the United Nations will by no means contribute to the peace process undertaken by Washington and therefore such request should be suspended until Israel complies with the rules of the world community, the paper demanded. It said that Israel has to prove that it is willing to arrive at peace with its neighbours and ready to give up occupied Arab territories to deserve some kind of reward from the world community, but not before.

A columnist in Al Dustour advised the Palestine National Council (PNC), now holding a meeting in Algiers, to be wise and careful with regard to its resolutions. Mohammed Kawash said that the leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, George Habash, drew applause from the PNC members when he spoke against accepting the U.S.-sponsored peace plan and called for continued Palestinian struggle. The writer said that the majority of Arabs support the ideal solution of regaining every inch of Palestine from Israeli occupation, but that the Palestinians and the other Arabs should take the deep changes and developments that are happening around the world more seriously and should realise that such struggle can by no means achieve fruitful results under the present circumstances. The writer said that all Arab countries have accepted the U.S. peace plan based on the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions and, in view of this situation, the PNC has no choice but to accept the new realities otherwise no Arab country would afterwards accept the presence of the PLO or the PNC on its territory. These are new realities and facts, said the writer, and no one can change them although they are bitter to swallow.

Peace talks are coming: What direction is ours?

U.S. wants negotiations to start in earnest, but it should be aware of the consequences of failure

By George Hawatmeh

IN his passionate speech to the European Parliament on Sept. 11, His Majesty King Hussein pledged that Jordan would contribute its "full share" to peace talks, but he warned of devastating consequences if the talks fail "as there are on either side forces of extremism and darkness that will grow in strength if there is no progress..."

Moments after concluding his round of talks with the King in Amman on Sept. 19, and in apparent response to the Jordanian pledge, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker emerged to tell reporters that, "in my view, no one has been more serious, more substantive, more constructive in their efforts, and no one has exhibited greater leadership and greater courage as have you (King Hussein) in your efforts — not just the ones we are undertaking now together with others — but efforts that you have made through the years in order to address this very difficult (Palestinian) problem."

Mr. Baker's words were taken here as a timely recognition of Jordan's continuous drive for peace in the region (even during the Gulf crisis), but most of us Jordanians remained sceptical about the U.S./P.O. position on the other, rather important, part of the King's message to the European Parliament: his warning of a "violent storm of unpredictable change" if hopes of the Arab peoples for peace were dashed, giving way to growth of "hatred, desperation and despair" in the whole Middle East.

His Majesty and the Jordanian people have generally been impressed by the U.S. administration's serious interest in moving the peace process forward, and even more impressed by President George Bush's stance and statements in confronting the Israelis and Israeli lobbyists in Washington over the question of U.S. loan guarantees to finance Soviet Jewish emigration to Palestine.

Newspaper headlines, like "Bush determined to stick it out with the Israelis" and "Israeli leaders accuse Bush of being a liar and anti-Semite" have had a sizeable impact on Jordanian and Palestinian thinking: sufficient to make people believe the U.S. may finally be serious about solving the Palestinian problem, by putting pressure on Israel if and when necessary, but probably not enough to allay our fears and scepticism about ultimate U.S. objectives and intentions in engineering and leading this process.

Jordanians and Palestinians have not yet forgotten about the Gulf war, and how the U.S. laid to waste Iraq, which had been perceived by the Americans themselves as the Arabs' biggest challenge to Israel. We have not forgotten that the U.S. has never failed to be Israel's closest friend and consistent backer and financier for as long as most people can remember.

Witness in this regard how revisionist Mr. Bush can be. In his speech to the General Assembly on Sept. 23, the U.S. president blasted and threatened Iraq again, called on the assembly to repeal its "Zionism equals racism" resolution, but failed to mention one word that would encourage the Palestinians meeting in Algiers to join the U.S.-led peace efforts.

People here, as indeed throughout the Arab World, have more than the U.S. track record in this region to be sceptical about. Scepticism is deep rooted in the conviction by influential Arab circles and political groups as well as the Arab masses that what the Bush administration has in mind is to merely start Arab-Israeli talks, boast about the achievement, use it for re-election purposes, and leave it at that. Worse still, many fear that America and Israel are out in strength, seizing on the lowest point in Arab history, to get the Arabs to sign away Palestine — or at best 78 per cent of it (1948 Israel) — all done according to humiliating conditions, where the PLO is excluded, Palestinian self-determination is deliberately ignored, Jerusalem is not discussed and Israeli settlements continue to be built and beefed up.

King Hussein understands and shares his people's and the Palestinians' feelings, but as head of the family that is Jordan, he is also aware that there is no alternative to pursuing the course of peace. In the final analysis, and apart from his and his family's historical vision on the need for Arab-Jewish coexistence, his country and the region as a whole need water, schools, technology, democracy and stability. Where and how can they be provided

if there is no peace, and the whole world — especially the industrial nations — is not involved in it?

In his speech to the Europeans, as in private conversations and meetings, the King emphasised the economic factor for the Arabs, who must not be "left to go on suffering material deprivation as a result of the Gulf war," and for Jordan, "which has had to bear the burden during every phase of Palestinian suffering," the latest example of which is the return of 230,000 mostly Palestinian expatriates from the Gulf and the influx of tens of thousands of Iraqis seeking asylum from the growing human tragedy afflicting the Iraqi people.

Despite his stance on the urgency to move forward, and Jordan's forthcoming position on the issue of peace, neither the King nor his government have found it easy to convince all Jordanians and Palestinians of the immediate need for peace and the lack of alternatives for such a course.

"People here, as indeed throughout the Arab World, have more than the U.S. track record in this region to be sceptical about. Scepticism is deep rooted in the conviction ... that what the Bush administration has in mind is to merely start Arab-Israeli talks, boast about the achievement, use it for re-election purposes, and leave it at that. Worse still, many fear that America and Israel are out in strength, seizing on the lowest point in Arab history, to get the Arabs to sign away Palestine — or 78 per cent of it ... according to humiliating conditions..."

The Jordanian left, which is represented in strength in the Cabinet and carries weight in the street, remains undecided pending, it seems, a decision by the PLO on the issue of participation; while the right, specifically the Islamists who are not partners in the government of Mr. Taher Masi, but who command a powerful bloc in Parliament and many followers among the public, is fundamentally opposed to making peace with the "Jews" and recognising their "Zionist" state. The Muslim Brotherhood, the biggest and best organised of the Islamist groups in the Kingdom, believes that the alternative to the peace process is more sacrifice by the Arab and Islamic peoples, increased preparedness for jihad and resorting to the ultimate weapon against the enemy: faith in God.

There is yet an emerging segment of the Jordanian society, the traditionalist East Jordanians, who are even opposed to Jordan providing an umbrella for Palestinian participation in the talks, since this to their mind weakens the Kingdom's standing among Arabs on the no-compromise-over-Palestine option and could endanger the country's security, with the potentially unsatisfied Palestinians, who make up over half of the population, stirring trouble in the future.

While the Jordanian government has not decided yet to attend the peace conference once an invitation has been extended, Prime Minister Masi nevertheless wasted no time in announcing Jordan's satisfaction with the letter of assurances delivered by Mr. Baker on Sept. 19.

American assurances, said Mr. Masi, are still under study, but "the main ideas we have sought are in these letters." He made his comments as Dr. Hanan Ashrawi, the West Bank Palestinian

representative, who met Mr. Baker at a moment's notice in Amman before he flew to Damascus Sept. 20, indicated that the PLO needed further movement and assurances from Washington on key issues to back the talks. "I don't think any party, the Jordanians, the Palestinians or the Israelis, have received all the assurances according to his own thinking — everyone has something or claims that something is missing," Mr. Masi said. But "we have one major concern and that is the settlements. It's really something that is growing in importance. When and if the conference opens it will be the first problem."

In anticipation of such a problem and many others emerging before and at the conference, the prime minister started work on his own colleagues in the Cabinet, to see whether his coalition would hold together once invitations have been issued and whether ministers are willing to withstand public pressures on them as negotiations with the Israelis get underway. Mr. Masi, who personally facilitated the meeting between Dr. Ashrawi and Mr. Baker, is close to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and appears to be counting on the Palestinian leader's success in getting the Palestine National Council's (PNC) session in Algiers to clear the way for Palestinian participation in the conference. Beyond that, however, the government seems to be working on other Arab fronts to ensure the holding of the talks, hopefully with Palestinian participation.

The role of Syria, which Mr. Baker visited twice before and after his trip to Jordan, is particularly significant in this context, especially that Damascus also appears to have been satisfied with American assurances on the recoverability of the Golan Heights.

President Hafez Al Assad, in an American TV interview taped just before Mr. Baker's arrival in Damascus on Sept. 18, did not rule out the holding of the conference without Palestinian participation, though he stressed that Israel could not make peace with the Arabs unless it settled the Palestinian problem and withdrew from the occupied Arab territories. "If we leave any part of the problem unresolved there will be no stable peace in the region," he said. "The Arab problem is basically a single problem. Dividing it will not help."

While in Amman, Mr. Baker strongly urged the Palestinians to join peace talks, saying they had the most to lose from not participating and the most to gain from doing so. The secretary, however, did say that the U.S. was willing to sponsor a conference that did not include the Palestinians if the countries in the region wanted it and that would proceed on the basis of tackling the various bilateral and regional issues involved in the U.S. two-track approach.

This leads to the inevitable questions of, first, what the PNC will decide to do; and, second, whether in case the Palestinians rejected participation, the Arab confrontation states would be willing, capable and ready to negotiate with the Israelis without them.

In a day or two we shall know the answer to the first question; so, it is only prudent to wait for the PNC to say its word. Logically, though, since the PNC is a parliament in exile it should not be expected to give a direct yes or no reply to proposals that have not been made even formally yet. The Palestinian body would do well therefore to merely draw up new guidelines or reiterate the constants of the Palestinian liberation movement, elect a new executive committee and leave it to the leadership to decide on the best course to take.

If this will be the case, the second question could be rendered obsolete, which should be a welcome development, a breath of fresh air, for the Arab World. Incentives then rather than pressure tactics, especially by the Americans, would be the sure way to bring the Palestinians to the negotiating table and encourage them to make lasting and honourable peace.

A slightly modified version of this article appears in the latest issue of the London-based magazine Middle East International.

Is time running out for Bush to remake the Middle East?

By R. W. Apple Jr.

For a few giddy days after the allies with improbable ease swept the forces of Saddam Hussein out of Kuwait early this year, it seemed to some members of the Bush administration that a comprehensive reshaping of the Middle East might be possible. Iran might be brought back into ordinary discourse with other nations, Mr. Hussein's days seemed numbered, the Arabs and the Israelis appeared more favourably disposed to settlement than perhaps ever before.

But this historic window of opportunity, as President Bush repeatedly called it, opened onto a political landscape of nightmarish complexity. In the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, the other great arena of change of the last decade, events have unfolded to the West's and Mr. Bush's advantage with few bold strokes on his part; but in the Middle East, nothing is that simple. So Mr. Bush found himself last week deeply committed to a vision of the future in the Middle East, and involved in policies designed to turn that vision into reality, but he was finding the going very difficult.

That is true in the matter of bringing the Arabs and the Israelis to the bargaining table, something he hopes to do by next month, and the maddening question of winning the release of Western hostages in Lebanon and the intractable problem of neutralising Mr. Hussein, who has proved to be more resilient and more defiant than the president had expected. Solving any major problem in the Middle East, as generations of European diplomats found after World War I and nine American presidents have discovered since World War II, takes time and luck and endless work, and even then the attempt usually ends in grief.

For a man pressed for time,

solutions are even more evanescent. And for Mr. Bush, convinced that his "window" will soon close as Arab good will left over from the Gulf war erodes, and eager to achieve at least some of his goals before election day 1992, time is certainly awasting. A campaign will soon be upon him, albeit a campaign in which he seems unlikely to be hard pressed, and campaigns are not the best of settings for major foreign policy initiatives. So, as one key Bush aide said last week: "The time is now. Right now."

Competing goals

In each case, of course, things look one way from Washington and another from the vantage points of the various other players. There are many agendas in the Middle East, and none of them matches Washington's. Mr. Bush would seem to have the best chance with the hostages, precisely because the agenda of the Iranians is coming into alignment with that of the West. Once eager to punish the Saudis hostile to the Islamic Revolution, Iran's leadership (or its dominant elements) now seems to be pushing its clients in Lebanon to let the hostages go so it can reestablish links to Washington.

Israel has always said it wants peace with its Arab neighbours, and that dovetails with the goals of the United States, but Jerusalem wants peace on its own terms and doesn't really trust Mr. Bush and his peripatetic secretary of state, James Baker. It fears, among other things, pressure for a deal setting up a Palestinian homeland in the occupied territories. That fear has been exacerbated by Mr. Bush's refusal to support, now or perhaps even later, loan guarantees for housing and otherwise resettling the huge influx of Soviet émigrés. Then, too, whatever credit Mr. Bush

may have gained on the geopolitical ledgers of the Saudis and the Syrians and the Egyptians because of the war, he has still not solved the problem of who speaks for the Palestinians at any peace conference, and that cuts very close to the heart of the matter. If the Palestinians remain dissatisfied, the region will remain unstable, whatever the others may put on pieces of paper.

Pressing Iraq

As for Mr. Hussein, he may no longer be capable of major offensive military action, as the American generals so proudly proclaimed in March, but he clings to office and he thinks time remains on his side, not Mr. Bush's. So he stalls, he plots and he interferes with United Nations inspectors whose job it is to defang him — especially to insure that he cannot develop a store of weapons of mass destruction. Mr. Bush threatened last week to send in American planes to assure that United Nations helicopters could go where they like. But it was unclear what he would do if the helicopters were shot at, or how further military action, short of another invasion, would help him turn into reality his vision of a powerless Saddam Hussein, losing the confidence of his people and his generals, driven from power at last.

What has made it possible for President Bush even to dream such great dreams, of course, has been the evaporation of Soviet power and influence in the region. No longer must the United States fear that regional tensions could turn into nuclear confrontation between superpowers; no longer must the United States contend with countries whose cantankerousness was reinforced by Moscow's interest in continued unrest.

But change on other fronts has not been as great, and many promised initiatives, such as an Arab peacekeeping force in the Gulf region, have not materialised. That makes things harder for Mr. Bush, as does the fact that the United States is now the sole superpower and thus the only likely initiator of a comprehensive settlement.

So the stakes are high for the president, in part because he has built up expectations, but also because the region is so explosive. He is unlikely to pay a high price for failure in domestic political terms. American voters are used to dead ends in the Middle East, and only direct threats to American lives (the hostages in Iran, the prospect of American troops at risk in a no-win situation in Lebanon) seem to cause major political tremors at home. In addition, Mr. Bush is a very strong president whose foreign policies are endorsed by three Americans in four in most recent polls. He faces weak opposition, at least so far. A case can be made, in fact, that even continuing problems abroad — like a failure to bring off a peace conference, a meeting that seemed increasingly unlikely as Mr. Baker returned home this weekend — only help the Republicans by focusing attention on foreign policy, their strongest suit.

But that is the narrow partisan view. In broader geopolitical terms, with Israel increasingly isolated, with the Palestinians ever more restive, with President Saddam Hussein defiant in defeat and with Islamic fundamentalism a destabilising force across a vast region stretching from the Atlantic to the Indian Ocean to the Caspian Sea, the pressure on Mr. Bush to succeed in imposing his vision on the future will continue to be intense. His is the only act in town — The New York Times.

LETTERS

Landlord Ethics

To the Editor:

In writing this letter, I hope to bring attention to the unjust and unethical practices carried out by some landlords in Amman today. At a time when the influx of people back to Jordan is dictated by disaster rather than by their own will and in light of the fact that most of the returnees have lost everything they had worked hard for, rents have soared to an all-time shameful high.

The words of His Majesty King Hussein, pleading to the people not to take advantage of fellow brothers and to come together at a time of grief for the whole Arab Nation, seem but a melancholic supplication scattered to the four winds.

The real estate market in Jordan has taken a turn reminiscent of the "Great Gold Fever." Ethics and compassion seem to have lost all appeal with the possibility of making a quick "buck" by some landlords who are determined to strangle those fortunate enough to have made it through the Gulf war.

But it does not end there. Not only do those who have escaped the war have to pay ridiculous amounts of money for 20 square metres of living space, but others who have always lived here and paid what was a reasonable rent compared to their salaries, now see their rent doubled overnight.

After having resided in Jordan for some time now, I am faced with the prospect of packing my things and leaving within one week. I was given the choice of paying nearly twice as much rent within seven days or being evicted.

Lawyers seem to agree that, as a foreign tenant living in furnished accommodation, I have few rights. I had not realised that my position after ten years of living here was so precarious. But what about Mona and Khaled who would like to get married and live independently but who have to postpone their wedding plans because the rents are suddenly too high in relation to their salaries? What about Bassam, Munir, Hala, Rima, Nadine, Abdullah and dozens of other hard working people whose lease agreements are about to expire and who are faced with a surge in rent-money they won't be able to meet?

Has "Arab brotherhood" and "living in harmony" succumbed once again to the private interests and greed of individuals? I feel that this is a very sad state of affairs for a country that is renowned for its hospitality and fair-mindedness, and hope that a law will be passed soon to safeguard against such practices in the future.

Penelope Goldpink,
P.O. Box 811721,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

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Women lose a special friend in Youssef Idriss



Youssef Idriss

By Katia Sabet

CAIRO — The recent death of Egyptian journalist, playwright and author Youssef Idriss has left a void that will be hard to fill, but women have also lost a special friend. A few days before a brain hemorrhage disabled him in May, he had addressed a conference of women writers in Cairo, offering humorous and pointed comments on that sex that men call weak. Idriss died at age 64 on Aug. 1 in London, where he had been undergoing medical treatment. Among his far-ranging works are nine plays, 11 novels and numerous collections of short stories, many of which were translated into 24 languages. Idriss will be remembered as a great humanist, one who forever remained sensitive to the plight of the oppressed — his talent as a writer undoubtedly stemmed from his qualities as a human being.

As a young man, Idriss had chosen to study medicine, as a way of helping his fellow man, he once said. But in the three years that he practiced as a doctor in the early 1950s, he realised that around him was not only physical suffering but also mental anguish.

resulting from ignorance, misery and injustice. Over the years Idriss developed a militantly secular view of progress, but he tempered his leftist leanings with empathy for mankind and he discarded ideology in favour of pragmatism to deal with human problems.

His sympathy for the poor and disinherited took root as he was growing up in Al Horiya, a small village in Egypt's rural heartland. He grew up amongst the 'fallahin' — destitute peasants whose story of lifelong drudgery and misery he was later to tell. Idriss began to write in earnest after his internship at Kasr Al Aini Hospital in Cairo. His first collection of short stories, 'Arkhas Layali' (The Cheapest Nights), often translated, was the first step in a steady ascent into the heights of the literary world. But he always remained close to his people, making his own harsh realities experienced by a developing society whose progress always seems drowned by the sheer enormity of the problems people face. Audacious, innovative and non-conformist, Idriss provokes, but all the while retains a

special sensitivity and sympathy for the plight of the down-trodden, women in particular.

He was able to empathise with women, and from living examples created unforgettable characters who stand as the victims of a macho society and unjust traditions. "The fact that some women have ended up with the blood of their husbands on their hands leads me to say that, pushed to the extreme, they physically expressed something they could not say any other way," he declared at the May literary conference where he was the guest of honour. The defiance is vintage Idriss. It leads critics to compare him to French author Ferdinand Céline, although Idriss had none of Céline's cynicism and bitterness. On the contrary, he was a jovial character who did not shy away from self-irony. "I thank God that I was not born a woman, that way I was not forced to choose a man as a life-long companion. No doubt there are some exceptional men around, but in our country, most of them wallow in a very selfish existence," he said.

Idriss closely observed the relationship between men

and women in marriage. His conclusion is hardly encouraging for oriental women: "They may live side by side, but in her husband, the woman does not find a person who takes an interest in her psychological problems or her intimate difficulties. One of the reasons why women are often the central characters of my books is because I think these problems and their life of often silent suffering need to be looked at and studied in depth. I think they are significant enough to be the subject of a literary work," he explained.

In his writing he paints poignant portraits of women struggling to survive in society's rural and urban underclasses. Having lived in those surroundings, he knew first-hand what tragedies were unfolding. Literary critic Sami Khachaba explained: "From the time he was very young, Youssef Idriss mixed with the people. His friends would often find him sitting in some obscure back-alley café playing cards with street peddlers or travelling to the countryside on a back of a truck with a group of seasonal labourers who are some of the most

destitute people on earth."

"As a young man, Idriss chose a certain ideology. He spent his life trying to justify and bolster his way of thinking. He yearned for a society in which there would be justice and beauty, freedom and balance. He spent his time searching for the signs that could reassure him, calm his fears and the anguish that came from observing the world, from exploring the darkest, forgotten corners of Egyptian life," Sami Khachaba continued.

"Ideology" may be too dry a word to express Idriss' motivation. It was more a position he took that determined his thought and feelings in the search for an ideal society — a society in which women would occupy their rightful place. "It is deplorable that in politics women in Egypt have not reached the place I believe they deserve," Idriss said at the conference. "It is true that since the period between the two world wars, women have played a role in the ruling class and that after World War II women started to progress in a way that seemed unstoppable. Women knew they had to fight for a

place in which they would be able to express and obtain the independence they wanted. But the revolution of 1952 was a completely male revolution," he added, referring to Egypt's fight for independence from the British. "Since then, the women in parliament and the ministries have remained mere symbols of what they could be."

"Women cannot express their opinion, because they don't even have a newspaper to represent them in real terms. Between 1952 and 1967, a strong political organisation representing women should have been set up to defend their rights and help them realise their aspirations. But this did not happen and Egyptian women are still waiting." Concluded the writer: "I would therefore advise them to take heart and stand in elections, rely on the female vote in order to achieve the political autonomy they are entitled to."

But Youssef Idriss is gone. The literary and intellectual circles mourn his loss. Some hope that his death will make what may have been his last public message more poignant — World News Link.

A writer takes stock of Lebanon's wounds

By Katia Sabet

CAIRO — Her house was bombed three times, but Emily Nasrallah refused to leave Beirut. She lived through almost two decades of war, with daily explosions, bodies in the street, kidnappings, massacres. At 50, she is part of a generation of Lebanese who have seen their beautiful and prosperous country, once known as the "pearl of the Mediterranean," turn into hell on earth.

Lebanon was also one of the Arab World's foremost cultural and intellectual centres, the hub of literary and journalistic productivity that has provided some of the region's best known writers, including Nasrallah. The winner of several literary prizes, she published her first novel, *Birds of September*, when she was 29. Now, with six novels and four collections of short stories under her belt, she has acquired a solid reputation as a journalist, author and public speaker. These days she seeks calm and temporary refuge in Cairo, where her husband and son live and work, and she is putting the finishing touches to her most recent novel. It is a period of transition, is a sense a hiatus between the past and the future. The past is full of tender memories of a childhood spent in a village of south Lebanon among olive groves on hills sloping gently toward the Mediterranean.

The future holds a ray of hope that peace may finally come back to this tortured land.

The long nightmare of war, the sleepless nights and bombing raids, the dispersal of family and friends who fled have left their mark on Nasrallah's delicate face. "Seventeen years of hell have taught us to cling to hope and to banish premonitions and pessimistic thoughts about what is to come," she says. "We do not think about tomorrow, we have learnt to live from one day to the next and to rejoice at what today brings us without speculating about tomorrow." It was that desire to preserve the beautiful that inspired Nasrallah for her novel *Birds of September*. It brims with childhood memories of a green and peaceful land.

"I spent the first years of my life in a mountain village, Kfar Al Zeit, surrounded by centuries-old trees and a few wheat fields. It was a poor village, remote and far removed from any cultural activity. But through one of my maternal uncles who had travelled a great deal, I knew that elsewhere life was different," she recalled in a recent interview.

When Nasrallah was growing up, schooling in rural areas was limited to three years. Eager to learn more, and reluctant to leave school, she repeated the last class three years in a row. Eventually, she wrote to another

uncle, one of many thousands of Lebanese who had emigrated to the United States, and begged him to help her further her studies. The uncle knew that the young girl's parents could not afford to send her to boarding school in Beirut, and so he undertook to finance her studies through secondary school. "I went to a non-religious school in a suburb of Beirut. I was 12 years old but I didn't speak a word of English, and the science and math classes were taught in English at that school. The other kids made fun of me because I had this mountain accent. But I was happy. There was a library there, and in my village there had been no such thing." It did not take her long to catch up, and soon her teachers noticed that the newcomer had an exceptional aptitude for literature. The child spent practically every free moment in the library, and her essays stood out above the rest. Several were published in the school journal, and two others appeared in a Beirut newspaper. "For the first time I saw the word 'writer' next to my name and to me it was a word full of promise and responsibility. I suddenly realised this was some sort of duty, a liability, and it was serious," she said.

To pay for her university education she had to earn a living. She worked as a journalist and a radio announcer, and she gave lessons in exchange for her meals. She started writing for two respected political and cultural publications in Lebanon, Al Saayed and Al Anwar. During her 12-year association with the two, she developed her own vision of the situation and problems of her country. "Over the years, my style has changed," she noted. "My first book was lyrical, it was dictated by sensitivity. If you want to talk about Lebanon today, lyricism is hardly appropriate; in fact my style has grown harder, it goes to the core."

Shortly before the outbreak of civil war in 1975, Nasrallah served as delegate to the United Nations Economic Commission of Western Asia in New York, which dealt specifically with the U.N. women's forum on population and development. She became an outspoken advocate of women's rights, and in 1986 published a two-volume work on notable women, titled *Pioneer Women From East And West*.

During that period the author published several other literary works, receiving popular and critical acclaim. A number of her books have been translated into several languages, including English and German. Nasrallah's style developed with each new work, and she vividly depicted the almost surreal way in which people continued to live and cope with violence.

"We never lost hope, but I

believe that some people were bent on keeping the war going. They talk of peace, they say they work for it, but in reality they prefer war because it serves their interest. I felt this several times in Lebanon: As soon as there was a lull in the civil war, a sniper from a roof would shoot and the fighting would start all over again." Maybe this time it's for good though. People are catching their breath, she says, and very slowly life is returning to normal. "These days, the Lebanese are giving off a feeling of joy: Joy at being able to live in peace, to rebuild, to go from one side of the city to the other without hindrance. Beirut is a small city but hatred had dug very deep rifts between different areas of the town," she said referring to the murderous animosity between the mainly Muslim sector to the west of the city and the Christian sector to the east of Beirut that were for many years divided by the "Green Line."

Now the focus is on rebuilding, she explains, and "there is a feeling of happiness everywhere, people are able to walk about the different sectors of the city without being afraid of being shot by a hidden marksman ... there is a little bit of cultural activity going on here and there. In recent weeks there have been concerts, exhibitions and plays in Beirut. We can't say that life is back to normal, but it's a beginning

and a real sign that the Lebanese want to go back to normal. This time it seems that the will to rebuild is stronger than the will to destroy." As she pauses, a note of worry comes into her eyes. "I hope that those who will rebuild the city will take into consideration what was there before and won't erase all the features we once knew. Beirut had a well-defined personality, it was not only a city, it was a cultural centre ... Everybody in the Middle East felt that Beirut belonged to them ... I hope the promoters will remember it when construction starts."

Some damage won't be healed by brick and mortar. It's frightening to see 6-year-old children so familiar with lethal weapons that they recognise the sound of any gun and can tell the type of ammunition used, she said. A whole generation of young people knows only violence to express itself and they have to be rehabilitated to be able to adapt to a "normal" life. "Now for them it's a dead-end," Nasrallah notes, adding that UNESCO and other international agencies should take up the burden to help the young learn about peace.

Commenting on current efforts to free the Western hostages held by extremist groups in Beirut, she says that the Lebanese empathise with the hostages' plight because their country was also taken hostage and tortured



Rejoicing at Beirut's recovery from decades of civil war, writer Emily Nasrallah wonders if the soul of the old Beirut will shine through modern reconstruction.

for years. "In Israeli prisons," she says, "there are hundreds of Lebanese hostages whose only crime was to defend their country." The occasional car bomb that goes off in Beirut reminds everybody that Lebanon is not yet the land of milk and honey. It will especially take time to reconcile the country's different religious and ethnic groups. "Before the war, we might have had our differences," said Nasrallah. "But the ethnic and religious diversity of our country was what made it rich, it was not a force of destruction. This wealth of diversity was

the source of our cultural prosperity. But this was exploited, and our tiny country became the stage for a third world war on an extremely concentrated scale." "When the money is there, it is not hard to rebuild houses. What is hard is to rebuild understanding and trust between people. What we have is a generation of people who have known no other way of life but war. It was a dirty war and they did not start it, yet they were the first victims ... Why? This is a question that will hang in the air for a long time to come," she said — World News Link.

Who did Hans Christian Andersen really write for?

By Christopher Follett

REUTERS
ODENSE, Denmark — Was Hans Christian Andersen simply a talented writer of children's fairy tales, or should adults be probing his works for deeper meanings? Danish academics, believing there is more to their country's greatest author than most readers realise, held an international conference here recently to consider his work in an adult perspective — and were surprised at the results.

Most Westerners, familiar from childhood with touching tales such as *The Ugly Duckling*, consider Andersen exclusively a children's writer, Danish lecturer Johan de

Mylius told Reuters.

But academics in Eastern Europe, Russia and the Far East interpret his fairy tales on a more intellectual level — a view Andersen would have approved of, he said.

"In Denmark, we accept that Andersen can also be for an adult audience, but on the whole the West has so far failed to realise this," said Mr. De Mylius, who organised the conference and is head of Odense University's International H.C. Andersen Research and Study Centre.

The conference showed that "in Russia and Eastern Europe the situation is quite different," Mr. De Mylius said. "There, Andersen is traditionally seen as a major

literary figure, a philosophical writer and an integral part of every student's 'spiritual baggage'."

"In China and Japan, Andersen enjoys immense popularity," he said. "In many parts of the Far East budding writers of children's books model their style on Andersen's techniques."

Some 70 academics, researchers and translators from 15 countries spent the week-long conference exchanging ideas about the significance of Andersen's work.

"One theme that came out strongly was Andersen's view of the relationship between man and nature," Mr. De Mylius. "It's a

familiar to us today."

In the fairy tale *The Dryad*, for instance, Andersen described a small tree uprooted from the countryside and replanted in Paris for the world exhibition of 1868 — which he had visited.

"The rural tree spirit longs for city life and the bright lights," said Mr. De Mylius. "But she loses her roots in the big city and dies — a warning against cutting our ties with nature as we rush for modernity and the excitement of the city."

On the other hand, in *The Little Mermaid*, an earlier tale, the mermaid survives the transition from the nature to the world of men, reflecting Andersen's belief that

man and nature can be reconciled.

His views of artistic inspiration show a psychological awareness far ahead of his time, Mr. De Mylius believes.

"He was a romanticist, believing in divine inspiration, but he thought poetry also grew out of the hidden forces of the unconscious, that sexuality and repression were behind poetry and other forms of art."

In *Auntie Toothache*, a pessimistic story about a student who wants to be a poet, his aunt encourages him by day, but appears by night as a Satanic figure who tells him suffering — in the form of toothache — is the price of

great poetry. The boy resolves to give up poetry, but dies tragically.

"Andersen is saying that the roots of poetry lie in the suffering of the individual, but also that the aunt's behaviour was based on her repressed sexuality," said Mr. De Mylius. "Teeth were a strong sexual symbol for Freud too, years later."

"Andersen saw that behind all that is cosy and familiar there lies a dark side, a Satanic aspect."

Andersen was born to a poor washerwoman in 1805 in Odense, on the central Danish island of Fyn, but wrote most of his prodigious output of fairy tales, travel books and plays after moving to

Copenhagen in his teens.

Odense University set up the institute in 1988 to stimulate overseas interest and university level studies of Denmark's most famous author.

Despite the respect Eastern academics hold for Andersen's tales, doubts linger among Western students.

"My students are fascinated by Andersen," Danish-American researcher Niels Ingwersen of University of Wisconsin, Madison, told the conference. "They tend, though, to react against any moral and philosophical interpretation of Andersen's fictional universe," he said.

Andersen's first collection of 23 fairy tales was published in 1835 under the title *Fairy*

Tales Told For Children, but the words "told for children" were dropped from the title page in subsequent editions.

Andersen himself rejected any suggestion that his fairy tales were written purely for children. On hearing of plans to erect a statue of him with children clustering around, Andersen wrote angrily, "my blood boiled and I spoke my mind in no uncertain terms."

"My aim is to be a poet for all ages, the naive element is only part of the tale..."

Andersen died in 1875, leaving behind work that included 167 fairy tales, 47 plays, 14 novels and 23 travel books. His fairy tales have been translated into over 100 languages.

The trip

By Maha Addasi

WE have been trying to go on a trip with our co-workers for the past five months. Because there are so many choices of places to go and things to do, and because there are so many opinions and innovative ideas, I can predict that we will never go anywhere. Long gone are the days when our teachers herded us onto the school buses without previous announcements and took us on trips. Those were the easy days when we did not have to make any decisions. But now, we could ask a group whether next Thursday is a suitable day for "the trip and they come up with excuses like, "my wife will be having the baby next Thursday, if we go on a trip it has to be this Thursday. Or "I take my 'usual' horse-back riding classes on Thursdays. I start next Thursday." And "Thursday is fine for me but I have to check if that would be suitable for my wife and two kids."

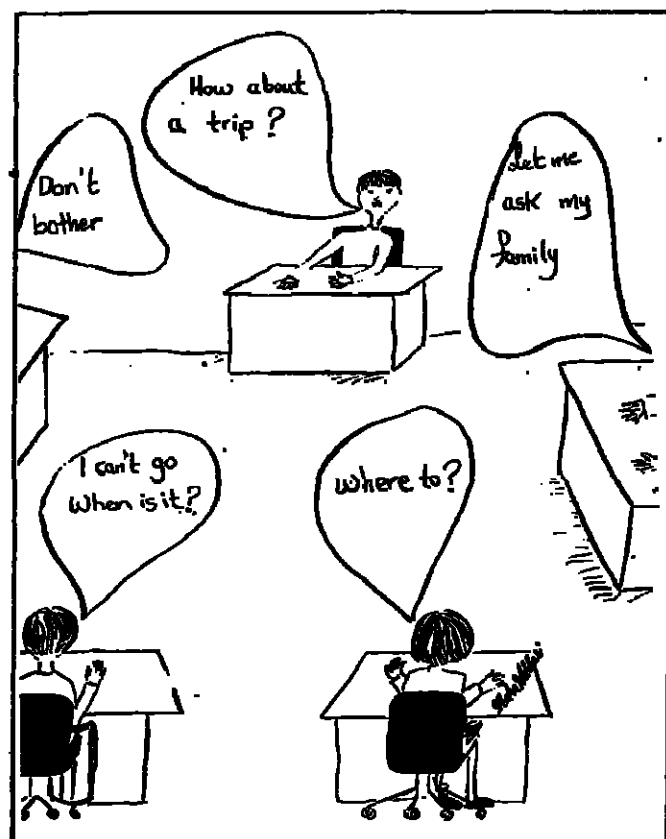
Once the time is set the place has to be decided on. One person likes trees, while another has the beach in mind, and a third wants to stick to the familiar, "how about my backyard," he suggests generously.

Then comes the method of transportation. The bus seems like the most logical choice, but then there are those who must take their own cars, "just in case."

So by the time we get down to what to eat on the trip, we have 25 people and 29 different suggestions, (if we're lucky that is). "I'm not going to fan the bar-B-Q, uh uh, not me. I will help in that area by eating."

All this and we still have not decided on who will be playing on which team when we set up the volleyball net, or frisbee even. But we figured it would be best decided when we get there, wherever "there" is, when we go there, whenever "when" is.

I think it is the word "trip" that makes people panic for some unknown reason. I suggested we stress that this is not the case. "This is not a trip. I repeat. This is not a trip. We are all going to meet there, by coincidence. All of us."



"We are each going to bring our own food, provide our own transportation, and entertain ourselves on our own. We are allowed to wave if eye contact is achieved."

The above mentioned discussion took place in early January when we were planning ahead for the summer. Now that summer is over, I have a feeling we will have to postpone the trip until next summer.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Thursday, Sept. 26

1918 — Allies launch offensive that eventually breaks Germany's Hindenburg Line in World War I.

1928 — Act of League Assembly, embodying Kellogg-Briand Pact, whereby war is outlawed and disputes are to be settled peacefully, is signed by 23 nations.

1937 — Arabs murder British district commissioner for Galilee.

1950 — United Nations forces recapture Seoul, capital of South Korea.

1965 — Former President Juan Bosch returns to Dominican Republic from exile in Puerto Rico, and his homecoming is marred by shooting outbreaks.

1969 — Military junta with leftist leanings overthrows government of Bolivia.

1976 — Leaders of five black African nations decline to accept plan presented by Rhodesia's Prime Minister Ian Smith to achieve black majority rule in Rhodesia.

1984 — Britain and China initial agreement that returns Hong Kong to Chinese rule in 1997.

Friday, Sept. 27

1923 — Martial law is declared in Germany.

1938 — League of Nations brands Japan an aggressor in China.

1939 — Warsaw surrenders to Germans after 19 days of resistance in World War II.

1940 — Germany, Italy and Japan sign 10-year military and economic pacts, setting up Berlin-Rome-Tokyo axis.

1945 — Congress Party and Muslim League win most seats in elections for India's central legislative assembly.

1959 — Typhoon batters Japanese island of Honshu, killing almost 5,000 people.

1962 — Army stages coup in Yemen, and Colonel Abdulla Al Salleh becomes premier.

1968 — France bars Britain's entry into European common market.

1973 — Soviet Union launches spacecraft into orbit around Earth with two cosmonauts aboard.

1987 — China's Premier Zhao Ziyang Defends Communist Party's purge of dissidents.

1988 — Soviet Union, at United Nations, calls on United States to join Moscow in creating a world space organization.

1990 — Iraq orders Kuwaitis to apply for Iraqi citizenship; Former Algerian President Ahmad Ben Bella returns home after decade in exile.

Saturday, Sept. 28

1826 — Russia declares war against Persia over latter's encroachment into Transcaucasia.

1915 — British defeat Turks at Kut-Al-Amara in Mesopotamia.

1924 — Two U.S. army planes land in Seattle, Washington, completing what is called first round-the-world flight, with total elapsed time of 175 days.

1939 — Germany and Soviet Union agree on plan to partition Poland in World War II.

1941 — Nazi Germany programme of terror begins in Czechoslovakia in World War II.

1950 — Indonesia is admitted to United Nations.

1965 — Volcano 35 miles (56km) south of Manila in Philippines erupts, killing at least 184 people.

1975 — Officials of World Health Organisation say they expect smallpox to be eradicated from Earth within one year.

1977 — Japanese urban guerrillas hold 156 hostages on hijacked Japanese airliner at Dhaka.

1978 — Syrian peacekeeping troops and Lebanese Christian militiamen engage in heavy fighting in Lebanon.

1980 — Iraq says that its troops advanced 80 kilometres inside Iran.

1982 — U.S. President Ronald Reagan says his economic policies have rescued nation from fiscal disaster.

1987 — Mehdi Hashemi, onetime close aide of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's chosen successor, is executed by firing squad in Iran prison for treason.

1988 — Czechoslovakia expels two British military attaches on charges of spying.

1989 — Former President Ferdinand Marcos of Philippines dies at age 72 of cardiac arrest in exile in Hawaii.

1990 — East Germany's parliament closes for good and reveals names of lawmakers who worked for Communist secret police.

Sunday, Sept. 29

1066 — William the Conqueror invades England to claim English throne.

1708 — British East India Company and new East India Company are merged.

1875 — Rebellion in Cuba leads to deterioration of U.S.-Spanish relations.

1911 — Italy declares war on Turkey, and Italian fleet bombards Tripoli coast.

1918 — Allied forces score decisive breakthrough of

Hindenburg Line in Germany in World War I.

1923 — British Mandate in Palestine begins.

1938 — Britain, France, Germany and Italy agree at Munich conference to transfer Sudetenland to Germany while remaining frontiers of Czechoslovakia are guaranteed. Germany thus becomes dominant European power, and both Little Entente and French system of alliances in Eastern Europe are shattered.

1957 — Almost 300 people are killed when express train hits parked oil train in West Pakistan.

1965 — Soviet Union admits it is supplying arms to North Vietnam.

1967 — International Monetary Fund's 106 members, meeting in Rio de Janeiro, approve unanimously major reform of world monetary system.

1971 — Soviet Union's unmanned Luna 19 spacecraft is enroute to the moon in another Soviet attempt to explore lunar surface.

1976 — Syrian troops in Lebanon drive out Palestinian guerrillas from most of their key mountain positions east of Beirut.

1979 — Pope John Paul II addresses crowd of more than one million in Dublin to make impassioned appeal for peace in Northern Ireland.

1988 — United Nations peacekeeping forces monitoring world's trouble spots for 40 years wins 1988 Nobel peace Prize.

1990 — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker meets Vietnam's foreign minister for highest-level talks since Vietnam War.

Monday, Sept. 30

1896 — Russia and China sign convention over Manchuria; Franco-Italian Convention over Tunis, by which Italy surrenders many claims.

1939 — Germany and Soviet Union sign treaty of amity settling partition of Poland in World War II; Britain sends 150,000 man force to France.

1946 — International Military Tribunal in Nuremberg, Germany, finds 22 top German Nazi leaders guilty of war crimes, and 11 are sentenced to death; London conference on Palestine meets but is boycotted by Zionists.

1955 — French delegates to U.N. General Assembly walk out after Assembly decides to take up question of unrest in Algeria.

1958 — Soviet Union resumes nuclear testing.

1963 — Soviet Union com-

es out strongly on side of India in that nation's dispute with Pakistan over Kashmir.

1971 — United States and Soviet Union sign pacts designed to avoid accidental nuclear war.

1978 — Scores of people, mostly civilians, are reported killed around Beirut in renewed fighting between Lebanese Christians and troops of Syrian peacekeeping force.

1984 — Egyptian court sentences 107 Muslim extremists to prison for attempting to set up Islamic regime after 1981 assassination of President Anwar Sadat.

1989 — Non-Communist Cambodian guerrillas claim capture of three towns and 10 other positions from government forces.

1990 — Soviet Union and South Korea open full diplomatic relations.

Tuesday, Oct. 1

1838 — Britain's first Afghan war to prevent increasing Russian influence threatening British position in India.

1887 — Baluchistan is united with India.

1895 — Massacre of Romanians in Constantinople.

1927 — Russian-Persian nonaggression pact is signed.

1928 — Soviet Union inaugurates first five-year plan to increase farm and industrial production.

1949 — People's Republic of China is proclaimed in Peking under Mao Tsetung, with Zhou Enlai as premier and foreign minister.

1960 — South Korean troops cross 38th parallel into North Korea.

1970 — United Arab Republic's Vice President Sadat succeeds the late Gamal Abdul Nasser as president.

1972 — Chinese government celebrates 23rd anniversary and says way is open for friendly relations with United States.

1980 — Warsaw court gives legal approval to Poland first six independent trade unions.

1988 — Iran and Iraq's foreign ministers meet at United Nations to resume Gulf war peace talks.

1989 — Communist east Berlin permits exodus by about 7,000 east German refugees to the west.

1990 — Minority Serbs in Croatia proclaim autonomy.

By The Associated Press

Aisam and Alia

(From an old Arab poem)

By E. Yaghi

MANY years ago when Mediterranean winds blew free and were not polluted by industries or foreign influence, Bilad Al Sham was inhabited by nomadic tribes who roamed about whenever a particular place didn't suit them. In spite of their wanderings, a man's tent was considered to be his place. These nomads were Arab knights who were brave, proud of their horses, arrows and swords. Famous for their chivalry and gallantry, these knights would hunt on their horses and in some circumstances, eat their meals on them. One of these errant great loves was to chase their enemies and a good fight.

Of these nomadic tribes once lived two children Aisam and Alia who were shepherds. Because they grazed their lambs and goats together, they grew up together much as other normal children at that time did. Over a period of time, their friendship blossomed into love. As Alia grew bigger, she donned the Hejab and the veil and they suited her. In turn, as Aisam matured, his hands grew stronger. The army always loved him to accompany them because of his passion for fight and talents in battle.

One autumn day when leaves had turned to red and gold and slipped off trees and floated feather-like to the ground to join their companions, Aisam's mother took him aside and said, "My Aisam and my sword, you became a strong soldier. All the soldiers like you to be with them." He noted the seriousness in her voice and was surprised by the stern look spread across her face. "Get revenge for your father's death or all our tribe will start making fun of you and will shame you!"

Aisam screamed and said, "Somebody killed my father?" He had always assumed his father died of natural causes. His face twisted in rage. "I swear by Mustafa, I won't eat a bite of food as long as our enemy stays alive!"

Impressed, yet hiding her approval, his mother said: "Here's your shield and here's your sword." She handed each in turn to him. Then she burst out with, "Abu-Alia is the killer!"

Again Aisam screamed. "You're telling me to kill Abu-Alia?" His heart pounded hard and fast with anger and remorse.

"Yes, let your sword drink his blood. Don't let your love be stronger than your honour!" Her face looked like a stone. It was unmovable.

Aisam trudged outside. He untied his horse and walked

beside it brushing away his tears because he must kill Alia's father. He stroked his horse with affection, trying to make his final decision. He quickly mounted on his horse, sitting straight, proud and determined. He searched for his enemy. At last he found him kneeling in a clearing, pouring a cup of Arab coffee. Aisam jumped off his horse, drew his sword and yelled. Abu-Alia knew why Aisam had come. He threw down his cup and wrenched out his sword and a ferocious battle began. Both men faced each other. Both were ready to die. Their swords struck and their clanging sound rang out and echoed through the hills. An eagle flying overhead screeched. A pink cloud of dust formed around the two knights. But Aisam was younger and stronger. He kept hitting Abu-Alia with his sword until he bared his bones. His foe died. So a happy Aisam returned victoriously singing. His mother looked surprised and said "What's the matter Aisam? Why are you so happy?"

He bore his satisfaction like a mantle and replied, "It is finished. I killed our enemy."

His mother nodded, satisfied. She and Aisam sat down to a hot cup of tea, laughing and enjoying themselves. They didn't see Alia approaching them, slapping her face and crying. Aisam turned his head and saw her tears running down her cheeks. At once his expression changed. "Aisam, my father has been killed! He drowned in his blood! Aren't you going to get revenge for Alia?"

Aisam's eyes clouded. His laughter had disappeared and he said, "Be happy. I never break a promise. (He was famous for always keeping his word). "You will see the one who killed your father, killed..." While he spoke and before he finished his conversation, he tore out his dagger and plunged it into his heart, killing himself.

When Alia saw he died because of what she said and that he looked like he was drinking his own blood, she wrenched the knife from his chest and shouted: "Don't die before me. Aisam!" She pushed the knife into her own heart and just before she died, said: "Peace upon the world and the people!"

Aisam and Alia were buried side by side where they died. Sometimes if you listen carefully, you might hear their voices as they whisper to the stars on clear nights when you can almost see forever. They grasped for the wind but failed. Little lambs graze near their now unknown graves, bleating while they nibble on pockets of grass. At times they stop eating and raise their heads as if they hear the thunder of hooves of Aisam's army or horses trampling over the graves of Aisam and Alia.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Sept. 26

8:30 The Family Man

Take My Dad Please

Brian, the youngest boy, wants to participate in a comedy contest and is very fond of the supervising history teacher. The father is jealous and tries to get his boy's attention.

9:10 Beyond Westworld

Westworld Destroyed

10:00 News In English

10:20 Movie Of the Week

Knights Of The Round Table

Starring: Robert Taylor, Ava Gardner and Mel Ferrer.

The film is about King Arthur, Queen Guinevere and Sir Lancelot.

Friday, Sept. 27

8:30 Night Court

Mac And Quon Lee Together Again

Starring: Harry Anderson, Ellen Foley, John Larroquette and Charles Robinson

9:10 Forever Green

10:00 News In English

10:20 Simon And Simon

Heels And Toes

B.C.



Monday, Sept. 30

8:30 Hey Dad.

9:10 Murder She Wrote.

Wedding Of The Green

A murder takes place in a jewellery store. The victim is Dolby who works in the store. The suspect is Jane, the Jewel designer. Jessica investigates the murder.

10:00 News In English

10:20 B.L. Stryker

Night Train

Starring: Burt Reynolds, Ossie Davis, Lindsey Alley and James Best.

Tuesday, Oct. 1

8:30 Who's The Boss.

9:10 Our House

They Also Serve

Starring: Wilfred Brimley, Deldre Hall, Shannen Doherty and Chad Allen

Who's The Boss on JTV Channel 2 Tuesday at 8:30

Saturday, Sept. 28

8:30 Totally Hidden Video

9:00 Encounter

Rami Khouri interviews Dr. Manzer Haddadin, international consultant on water resources.

9:30 Classical Music

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film

Buried Alive

Starring: Tim Matheson, Jennifer Jason Leigh and Hoy Axton.

Sunday, Sept. 29

8:30 The Simpsons.

9:10 Documentary

Mountains Of Fire

10:00 News In English

10:20 Kojak.

None So Blind

Starring: Telles Savalas

10:00 News In English

10:20 French Feature Film

Wednesday, Oct. 2

8:30 The Family Man.

Father Figure

9:10 Cosmos.

The Shores of the Cosmic Ocean

10:00 News In English

10:20 Derrick.

Cannes brings recognition to African cinema

After the success of *Tilai*, the African cinema confirmed its presence in Cannes, in 1991, with four films. For African cinema, 1991 appears as a turning point. In spite of difficulties, Cannes seems to be a kind of trampolines to the future and to world recognition.

By Philippe Verrière

PARIS — In the film industry, just like in all other matters, the most important events are not always the most visible ones. This has been the case with African cinema.

It was enough, for the first time, to have eight black film-makers (four Africans, three Americans and one Briton) in competition, for people to start thinking that African cinema, taking advantage of the popularity of black films is really becoming acknowledged.

However, the great film, likely to have its chance among the winners, in the manner of *Tilai* (a film by Idrissa Ouedraogo, which won the big prize at Cannes in 1990), was not there.

Safi Faye had not managed to settle his financial problems and the misadventures of Mossane, which the great African film-maker is working on now, pertinently remind us that four first films in competition might be a sign of great enthusiasm, but did not, for all that, mean that the African cinema had reached the end of its problems.

Ouedraogo's new undertaking seemed more promising. After the success of *Tilai*, he is putting on the *Tragédie Du Roi Christophe*, by Aimé Césaire, for the very official Comédie Française.

One piece of good news is that African film-makers are coming into the public eye. But the difficulties remain. The story of Bassek Ba Kobio is almost a caricature in this respect. Thanks to Claire Denis's film *Chocolat*, he became an assistant. It is a great piece of luck as the opportunities to get some practice are rare. He took advantage of this to make his scenario known. This is how Sango Malo was made and ended up being selected for Cannes in 1991. The story combines luck, cheek, sacrifice and miracles just like the other three African films selected.

An important turning point

This combination of confidence and do-it-yourself led Adama Drabo to walk the Paris streets with the can of his film *Ta Dona* under his arm, as he was unable to pay for the post-production. These same difficulties ex-



A scene from Idrissa Ouedraogo's film *Tilai*

plain how Drissa Toure and Bassek Ba Kobio, just like their colleague Drabo, took advantage of the services of Atria, Andrée Davanture's association which, with derisory means, ensures a future for African film projects. This is how three of the four African films, shown at Cannes, were edited almost together in the same Paris premises.

But African cinema is at an important turning point in its history. After the era of the pioneers, from Borom Sarret by Sembène Ousmane and after the important confirma-

tion of the African film industry by the works of Souleymane Cissé and Idrissa Ouedraogo, these four young film-makers present in Cannes, show the vitality of the new generation.

The really important event took place in the framework of this development. Last March 2 was the end of the Fespaco, that is to say the pan-African festival which, every two years, groups together practically all of Africa's film production in the particularly warm atmosphere of Ouagadougou.

This year, there were some unusual guests at this big festival, including a delegation from the International Centre of French Cinematography, brought over by its director general in person, Dominique Walton. In addition to being a first, it, above all and somewhat paradoxically, made it possible to develop the project of co-operation between France and Burkina Faso on the subject of coproduction and distribution.

The agreement signed indeed ratifies the leading rôle of Burkinese artists on the

continent, but, above all, broaches the problem from which African French-language cinema suffers the most: Production.

With an African country whose competence in the area is acknowledged, and the wish, by France, to go beyond the stage of simple good will, the four young film-makers who showed their first films in Cannes, can now envisage making a second one.

The second problem of African cinema will then remain: That of distribution. But one thing at a time.

Dublin has a modern art museum, at last

By Matt Wolf
The Associated Press

DUBLIN — A city known more for its rich literary tradition than for its visual breadth, Dublin finally has what New York, London, and Paris have boasted for years — a museum of modern art.

The New Irish Museum of Modern Art (IMMA) opened in May on the 17th-century premises of the Royal Hospital Kilmainham, a spacious, elegant building in the working-class western fringe of the city.

For years, the capital's nearest equivalent was the city centre's Hugh Lane Municipal Gallery of Modern Art, opened in 1933.

That collection largely stops with the impressionists. And its most celebrated paintings alternate sites on a rotating basis with the National Gallery in London as required by Lane's will.

IMMA does have its token Picasso — the artist's 1921 *Sibylle* — but the aim is to showcase the variety of contemporary art.

"We can't buy Picassos. We can't buy anything that costs millions of pounds," said museum Director Declan McGonagle. "We shouldn't therefore attempt to."

The museum's birth was a happy accident.

"The Irish government would not have spent 21 million Irish pounds (\$32.1 million) to make a museum of modern art, which is a measure of the difficulty this country has," said the 39-year-old administrator, who comes from Londonderry in Northern Ireland.

But having spent that sum to restore the Royal Hospital for use as a conference centre, the government decided to locate the centre in a second historic building, Dublin Castle.

So a newly renovated building on more than 16 hectares (40 acres) of ground found itself in need of an occupant, and IMMA was born.

The hospital's long corridors and high ceilings give art works room to themselves.

Because of the building's historic status, the government pays the considerable maintenance costs. That means McGonagle can use an annual grant of 850,000 Irish pounds (\$1.3 million) for administrative purposes.

A further 250,000 Irish pounds (\$380,000) — pocket money by international gallery standards — has been earmarked annually for acquisitions.

Initial exhibitions include a bequest from Irish businessman and art collector Gordon Lambert, as well as the *The Great Book Of Ireland*, original poems and paintings on vellum compiled to salute Dublin's status this year as the European City of Culture.

On Sept. 15, *Gold Of The Kremlin*, a touring exhibition from the Soviet Union, arrived in Dublin. Early reviews of IMMA have been mixed, with the most favourable responses coming from the foreign press.

John Russell Taylor in the *Times* of London called IMMA "a permanent addition to (Dublin's) pleasures," whereas Bruce Arnold in the *Dublin-based Irish Independent* said it wasn't "worth its place in the world."

Other lamented the internationalism of the collection at the expense of Ireland's own artists. While IMMA features contemporary painters and sculptors from Ireland and Northern Ireland like John Kindness, Ciaran Lennon, and Brian Maguire, there are also works of the Czech-born Magdalena Jetelova, New Yorker Nancy Spero, and Germany's A.R. Penck, among many others.

"There's a notion that the museum should have been a museum of Irish modern art rather than an Irish Museum of Modern Art," said McGonagle, taking issue with critics' "parochial attitudes." "It is possible to be a museum that can house Picassos and also young Irish artists-in-residence," he said. "The distinction (between them) doesn't exist in the world."

Kindness, who has two works — *Etchings On The Door* and *Hood From A New York City Taxi Cab* — on display in IMMA, said the museum offered the unmistakable attraction of seeing work firsthand.

"It's very important for artists to see real art rather than looking at reproductions all the time," said Kindness, 40, who recently moved to Dublin from his native Belfast.

Longevity is appealing, too: Before IMMA, Kindness said he had "no work in a permanent collection. It's nice to have something that's always going to be there."

Son helps uncover new Woody Guthrie songs

By David Lawsky
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Folksinger Arlo Guthrie is helping uncover a legacy of lost songs written by his father, the legendary Woody Guthrie.

Woody Guthrie is best known for such songs as *This Land Is Your Land*. But Arlo Guthrie and fellow folksinger Pete Seeger, a friend of his father, are discovering hundreds more songs written by Woody.

Guy Logsdon of Tulsa, Oklahoma, who is compiling a comprehensive bibliography/discography of Woody Guthrie's work in cooperation with the Smithsonian Institution, estimates that Guthrie wrote more than 1,000 songs between 1935

and 1953, when he was stricken with Huntington's chorea. Guthrie died of the rare, genetic disease in 1967.

Arlo Guthrie, 44, who lives in Washington, Massachusetts, won fame as a folksinger and humorous story teller with the hit *Alice's Restaurant* more than two decades ago.

He and Seeger team up each year for an appearance at Wolf Trap, the national park near Washington dedicated to the performing arts.

At this year's concert they introduced one tangible result of their years of research — a songbook that includes newly released Woody Guthrie compositions.

Afterwards they discussed the book and other efforts to find lost Woody Guthrie material.

The songbook was edited by Bill Murrin, an employee of the Bonneville Power Administration where Woody Guthrie worked in 1941. It was published this year by Sing Out magazine as *Woody Guthrie: Roll On Columbia*.

In one month at the Power Administration Guthrie wrote 26 songs about power dams, earning \$266 and 66 cents.

"It's a very, very unusual thing that was done for a government agency," said Murrin of Guthrie's songwriting job.

Nearly half the songs in the book were lost for decades until Murrin, with encouragement and suggestions from the Library Of Congress and the Guthrie family, tracked

them down. "There were amateur records (by Woody Guthrie) of songs we didn't even know existed," Murrin said.

Arlo Guthrie's favourite rediscovered song is called *Roll Columbia, Roll*, which he called a "Great Song."

The search for Woody Guthrie material is also moving ahead on other fronts.

A book of children's songs he wrote and illustrated 43 years ago was discovered recently in the library of Sarah Lawrence College, where Arlo's mother Marjorie once taught.

The book will be published next year by Harper Collins as *Woody Guthrie's Grow Big Songbook*.

Guthrie's children and grandchildren are recording the songs for an accompan-

ing cassette.

A former colleague of Woody Guthrie, who lives in Reno, Nevada, gave Arlo Guthrie 140 songs used by his father on a 1940s California radio programme, but they lack music.

"People will put tunes to them and the good ones will be known, perhaps, and the other ones will just fade away," Arlo Guthrie said.

In fact, a number of Woody Guthrie songs lack music. Seeger added tunes for five songs in the *Roll On Columbia* book, and Arlo Guthrie is providing music for some of the children's songs.

"It's not that big a mystery: The meter dictates a certain thing and the style dictates a certain something," Arlo

Guthrie said.

"Finding the actual melodies is probably not so important as finding the general feeling," he said. "Woody himself would change the melodies to these songs."

He demonstrated his point during the concert by singing *Pastures Of Plenty* in a minor key, a version turned up in research for the Bonneville Book, instead of the major key used on a commercial recording by his father.

Arlo said many of Woody's songs have tunes that resemble, or partially resemble, other songs. In some cases, Woody Guthrie would note, "to the tune of..."

In folk music, Arlo Guthrie said, "the same tunes get rolled around, over and over and over again."

Tattoos turn wearers into walking works of art

By Jim Strader
The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — David "Ace" Daniels regards his tattoo-covered body the way a curator considers his gallery.

"My tattoos are an art collection," he said.

Daniels invited tattoo artists and enthusiasts to Pittsburgh for a tattoo expo,

billed as North America's Biggest Tattoo Party. About 3,000 are expected to attend the convention, now in its third year.

Daniels said tattoos are no longer just inky reminders of past romances and the preserve of "drunken sailors and fallen women." They have become a form of art, worn by everyone from hippies to yuppies.

"We feel like we're living galleries, living canvases," said Daniels, 50, who runs a tattoo studio in Richmond.

The canvas that is Ace Daniels was first etched with a needle at age 13 and is quickly filling up. Tattoos run from his wrists to his shoulders, cover his back and chest and drop down both legs. Figures peek from the collar of his shirt. A small skull sits

by the corner of his left eye.

Daniels lifted his shirt to display his latest addition, a full-size skull resting over his ribs and ogling the Hollywood starlet adorning his belly. As is his skin were not proof enough, Daniels said tattoos are addictive.

"We have a saying in the trade: 'Nobody can have just three,'" he said.

Many who mingled Thursday at the Pittsburgh Hilton and Towers were adorned similarly. Along with the tattoos, some wore leather, some lace, some torn T-shirts. Most wore black.

Although businessmen passing through the lobby offered curious glances, convention publicist Kym Pulfrey said tattooing is gaining wider acceptance.

"People are starting to appreciate it as art," she said.

Bob Montagna, a tattooist from Malaga, New Jersey, said his craft is one of the world's oldest art forms. It dates to the day one caveman poked another with a charred stick and left a mark, he said, and has been part of most of the world's cultures ever since.

"It's ancient. It's ancient as time," Daniels agreed.

The practice has evolved from simple "hearts and roses and daggers and skulls" to "photo-quality portraits," Daniels said. He said many tattooists are trained in classical and fine arts.

"If you don't have a degree in art, it's pretty hard to get anywhere in this business,"

he said.

"The old stereotype of the tattoo artist on skid row being one step above the drunk he was tattooing is gone," said Montagna.

Montagna said he sees all kinds of people in his shop, but most come for the same reason: To make a statement. "It's the ultimate example of self-expression," he said.

Young Kabuki actor confident Britons will enjoy Japanese Hamlet

By Tsukasa Makiawa
Reuters

LONDON — Somegoro Ichikawa, an 18-year-old Kabuki actor from Tokyo, has taken on the challenge of playing not only Hamlet but Ophelia too — Japanese style.

His Kabuki version of Shakespeare's tragedy ends with the Prince of Denmark committing harakiri, the ritual suicide common among Japanese Samurai warriors but unknown to the bard of

Avon. Ichikawa's transformation in seconds from Hamlet to Ophelia is typical of Kabuki theatre, which tells its story in dance, song and mime with characters dressed in colourful Samurai costume and flowing kimonos.

"I felt some pressure because I hadn't the slightest idea of how British playgoers, well-versed in Shakespeare, would react to a Kabuki version of Hamlet," Somegoro said in an interview.

Kabuki evolved around 1600, when Shakespeare was writing Hamlet.

The Kabuki version, set in a 16th-century castle in rural Yamagata in northeastern Japan, opened on Sept. 19 at London's Mermaid Theatre. It is part of a huge Japanese festival which offers over 350 events throughout Britain from now until early 1992.

Men playing female roles and acting two parts in the same play are common in male-dominated Kabuki.

For Somegoro, they are challenging performances because he will portray a major leading role in Kabuki for the first time. Somegoro became a Kabuki actor at the age of six and played in a modern version of Hamlet four years ago.

"I think the stage in London will be a very important and useful experience for my life as a Kabuki actor in the future," he said.

Somegoro, a student at a Tokyo college, comes from one of Japan's prestigious

Kabuki families and is a rising star among the country's 250 Kabuki actors.

His father Koshiro Matsuoto played the king in *The King And I* earlier this year in London.

"I wondered about my future as a Kabuki actor when I was a high school student because I was just practising without getting a major role," he said. "Now I feel there is growing interest in me."

Somegoro and a 44-strong company which includes 16

actors hope their Hamlet will help Britons understand more about Kabuki.

"Britons will find no difficulty in following the story even though it is played entirely in Japanese," Somegoro said.

The Kabuki Hamlet was played earlier this year in Japan and it is almost faithful to the original play except for the final harakiri scene.

There has been some argument in the company about whether harakiri, which features ritual disembowelment,

was too gory to be shown in Britain, but they decided to go ahead.

"Harakiri is a major and frequently played scene in Kabuki, and we want to show it as it is," Somegoro said. Samurai soldiers committed harakiri to avoid dishonouring their superiors.

When he switches to the part, he says, he instantly starts to think like a woman. He also tries to look smaller than male characters by bending at the knee and behaving inconspicuously by

staying one step behind men — a characteristic of traditional Japanese women.

Behind the move to bring "Hamlet" to England is a Shakespeare boom in Japan, which is hosting an international conference on the playwright in Tokyo this year.

"Kabuki and Shakespeare both originated and developed as 'theatre for the masses' and were contemporary," Toshio Kawatake, president of the Japan Comparative Literature Society, has commented.

Gene therapy could lead to new class of genetic drugs

By Catherine Arnst
Rueter

LIVERPOOL, England — One infant in every 100 is born with a serious genetic defect.

Each of these inherited disorders — more than 4,000 of them, including cystic fibrosis, sickle cell anaemia, muscular dystrophy, Tay-

sachs disease and haemophilia — is caused by a single defective gene.

Scientists have long dreamed that if they could only eliminate the guilty gene they could eliminate the disorder it causes.

That dream is becoming a reality as scientists report their first successes with a technique that could create a

whole new class of drugs. These would replace or correct a defective gene, changing the genetic nature of the patient.

The use of genetic material for drugs falls far outside traditional pharmaceutical chemistry and opens up a whole new area of therapeutic agents, not to mention regulatory and ethical conundrums.

It goes further: Geneticists now believe that gene-based drugs could be developed for far more than single-gene hereditary defects. Gene therapies are under development to treat many cancers, Alzheimer's disease, even heal wounds, by delivering genes that would programme patients to produce more of whatever natural disease-fighting agent they lack.

A dozen companies have started up in the United States alone to develop gene-based drugs and most major pharmaceutical companies

are conducting research in this area. More than 50 human genes have been successfully implanted into animal cells so far, the first step in developing a disease treatment for humans.

"To be able to harness and to manipulate the genetic machinery of any cell so as to control gene production has many varied consequences for the pharmaceutical community," Dr. Eric Tomlinson, science chairman of the British Pharmaceutical Association, told its annual conference here earlier this month.

Dr. Tomlinson envisioned medicines that could turn a patient's own cells into a drug factory by genetically programming them to produce as much disease fighting protein as needed.

The biggest success so far in developing gene-based drugs was a breakthrough announced last April in developing a cure for cystic fibrosis, a deadly respiratory

disorder that is the most common fatal inherited disease.

Two teams of scientists, from U.S. government research laboratories and from Transgene Sa of France, said they were able to successfully deliver a human gene into rat lungs with an inhaled liquid spray. Once implanted, the gene directed the rats' lung cells to secrete a human protein lacking in cystic fibrosis victims that protects lung tissue.

Although the technique still needs years of refinement before it could be used in humans, scientists hailed it as the first step toward a simply administered drug to cure a disease that kills most of its victims before the age of 30.

But using genes as drugs, rather than chemicals, is a troubling concept for many ethicists. They fear that correcting a gene coded for disease may be the first step on a slippery slope to genetic engineering, with humans prog-

rammed for everything from higher intelligence to blue eyes.

Scientists dismiss such fears, stressing that there is little support for research into so-called germ line gene therapy, in which genetic traits could be changed to affect the pattern of inheritance.

Somatic gene therapy, where the treatment works only on the body of the patient and cannot be passed on to offspring, is both more possible and more acceptable. Most scientists regard it as the equivalent of an organ transplant.

Germ line therapy has yet to be attempted and has already been outlawed in Germany, but most countries are approaching somatic therapy as just another medical treatment.

There is, however, concern about how to regulate such treatment, since scientists cannot predict with complete certainty what the long term

impact could be of changing a person's genetic character. The United States has already set up eight government agencies to monitor gene-therapy experiments.

Only two clinical trials of human gene therapy have been conducted so far, both in the United States. Another three proposals were approved by a special advisory panel of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration last month.

Gene therapy was first tried last year by Dr. French Anderson of the U.S. National Heart Lung and Blood Institute. He injected genetically altered cells into a four-year-old girl with a rare defect usually known as the "boy-in-the-bubble disease" that prevents the immune system from functioning, forcing its victims to live in a completely sterile environment.

The girl is still alive and Dr. Anderson says the experiment was a success but

critics say drug treatment would have been just as effective.

Dr. Steven Rosenberg of the U.S. National Cancer Institute is attempting a broader experiment, inserting potent anti-tumour genes into the blood cells of cancer victims. He reported recently that the first two patients, who were expected to die in weeks from malignant melanoma when the experiment started last January, are still alive.

Dr. Rosenberg has just won approval from the recombinant DNA Advisory Committee of the National Institutes of Health to start a second experiment. In this, he will remove cancer cells from 50 terminal cancer patients, insert the genes for tumour-fighting cells and then reinsert the patients in an effort to boost immunity.

"This will be our first attempt to try and develop cancer vaccines," said Dr. Rosenberg.

French scientists find second gene causing diabetes

PARIS (R) — French scientists have said they had identified a second gene responsible for diabetes, a discovery that could help preventive treatment of the hereditary blood-sugar disease.

Professor Jean-Francois Bach of Paris's Necker Hospital said the discovery could enable doctors to identify patients at risk even before they developed diabetes.

"This opens up the future of genetic research. It will permit us to recognise very early on who is susceptible to the disease," he said.

"We will be able to tell the brother or sister of a diabetic whether he or she is at risk. For those, at risk, we can try to produce a treatment which will slow down or even prevent the disease from developing," Dr. Bach told France Info Radio.

The main feature of diabetes, afflicting some 60 million sufferers around the world, is excess sugar in the blood which, in severe cases, can cause kidney damage or blindness.

Dr. Bach said the newly-

discovered gene, and another identified by researchers at Britain's Oxford University last June, were part of a genetic combination that brought on diabetes.

"It's like a lottery all of the figures are necessary. Diabetes is linked to the simultaneous presence of several genes," he said.

"We now know of two but that is not enough because there are several. How many? We don't know," Dr. Bach said.

He said a preventive treatment could be developed once the gene, identified in mice, had been isolated in humans. "We have to pin down the gene in man, which we should be able to do quite soon, in a few months or at most two years."

Dr. Bach later told French Television that within one or two years scientists could probably produce a test to detect whether a patient risked developing diabetes.

"Finding a treatment we hope will take three to four years. It could be a little more, it could be a little less," he said.

Mother at 50 possible with new test-tube technique

SYDNEY (R) — A technique developed by Australian scientists may allow women to freeze their ova when young and conceive children into their 50s, raising the prospect of young career women delaying birth until later in life.

The technique, developed primarily to help conception in women made infertile by disease, has raised the ire of some feminists and anti-abortion campaigners.

Researchers at Melbourne's Royal Women's Hospital have said they had applied to the state government of Victoria for permission to thaw frozen human ova and test their viability.

The new in-vitro fertilisation method allows an ovum to be frozen for an indefinite time, and implanted into a woman in later years or when she develops medical complications, such as cancer, that would prevent her from conceiving naturally.

"This would benefit those women who are at risk of sterility through the treatment of leukaemia and cancer," said Dr. John McBain, leader of the hospital's in-vitro research unit.

He said his group had successfully frozen and thawed human ova for three years. They now wanted to fertilise the thawed ova with sperm, and experiment with

the resulting embryos over a 22-hour period to ensure their genetic structure had not been damaged in the process.

Anti-abortionists say the technique would allow "egg banks" to be created for young professional women who wanted to postpone pregnancies so they could pursue

their careers, and might even be used to impregnate grandmothers.

"What possible advantage could there be in deliberately choosing to have children in your 50s?" said Margaret Tighe of the Right to Life Association by telephone from Melbourne.

"This is another bizarre manipulation of humans in the laboratory. Nature has decreed that child bearing will peter out in your 40s... this is just another attempt to manufacture human life in laboratories," she said.

"The whole process likens women to hens," Dr. Renate Klein, a biologist and femin-

ist lecturer at Geelong's Deakin University, told the Australian newspaper.

Dr. McBain said that, with the technique, "there is no theoretical limit" as to when women could conceive, but that legislators would probably disallow its application in women over 50.

Reverse genetics leads scientists from gene to disease

BOSTON (AP) — Scientists say they have for the first time discovered a normal gene, altered it and then found the cause of a mysterious human illness.

The technique, called reverse genetics, is the opposite of the way scientists ordinarily search for defective genes that underlie many disorders, especially those passed through families.

Typically, scientists start with a disease and try to find the gene that causes it.

In their backward approach, the researchers found that errors in genes that make a common protein called Keratin are to blame for a rare skin disorder called Epidermolysis Bullosa Simplex.

"A scientist is always reluctant to say they were the first to do anything, but I am fairly certain it's the first case"

of discovering the cause of a disease this way, said Dr. Elaine Fuchs of the University of Chicago's Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

A report on her work was published in the latest issue of the journal Cell.

"It was quite amazing," Dr. Howard Green of Harvard Medical School said of Dr. Fuchs' discovery. "It was very obscure what the problem really was."

Dr. Fuchs said her work eventually could lead to a cure for the disease, which makes the skin blister after mild contact. It is currently untreatable and affects one in 50,000 people.

Dr. Fuchs' research began with the discovery in the mid-1980s of a group of genes responsible for making Keratin in skin cells. Keratin forms strands that make up about 85 per cent of the total protein in the skin.

Despite its abundance, scientists have been uncertain what Keratin does, since skin cells do not need the strands to grow. However, the new work suggests that it forms the scaffolding that gives skin cells mechanical structure.

"Once we isolated and characterised these genes, we wondered if there might be genetic skin diseases that have as their basis defects in Keratin genes," Dr. Fuchs said.

To find out, they created a mutant form of a Keratin gene. Then, they inserted it into skin cells in a test tube. The mixed-up gene interfered with the cells' Keratin production.

Next, they inserted copies of the mutant genes into mouse embryos. To the scientists' surprise, the mice came down with a blistering skin disease that looked just

like Epidermolysis Bullosa Simplex, or EBS.

So the scientists isolated Keratin genes from two people with a severe form of the disease called EBS Dowling-Meara. They found a single error in the code of their genes.

Finally, the scientists put copies of genes with precisely the same malfunction into skin cells in another round of test tube experiments. The cells grew to look like those from people with the disease.

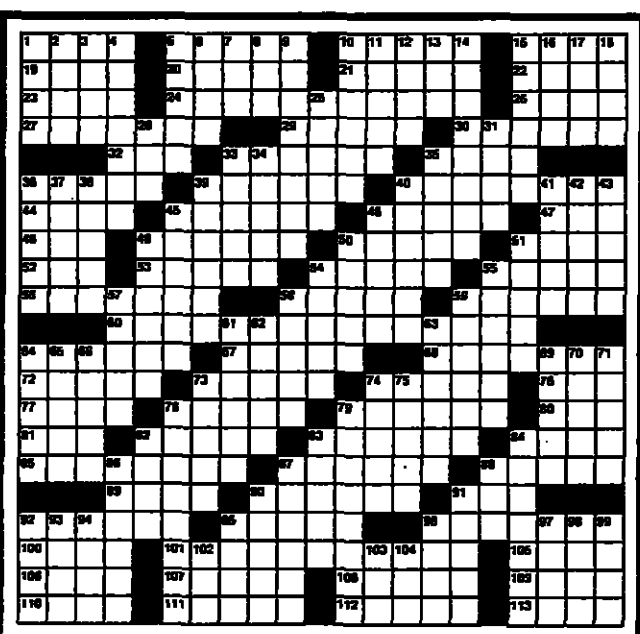
Though it is still years away, Dr. Fuchs said the discovery might lead to a way of using genetic engineering to correct the disease. She speculated the doctors might insert a correct version of the defective gene into patients' skin cells. These cells would then multiply in test tubes and be used to make skin grafts.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Q & A
By Alvin Becker

- ACROSS
1 First word of question
2 Down
3 Turn, VPs
4 Last body
5 US publisher
6 Roman poet
7 Shaving
8 Go away
9 "Aye Oop"
10 Carafe
11 Fr. hermit's name
12 Fable
13 Ring decision
14 Word
15 Skyscraper
16 Fat and fedora
17 Mixture
18 Stride

- 39 Medical priority
40 Lodes
41 Holiday times
42 Times
43 Editor's mark
44 Letter
45 Cornucopia question
46 Alter
47 Cornucopia
48 James of film
49 Prior work
50 Eng. landmark
51 Chair
52 Eng. poet John
53 Cornucopia
54 Cornucopia
55 Make lung
56 Dryed latens
57 Cornucopia question
58 Cornucopia



Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Famed mountain climber couldn't stand on a ladder to change a light bulb. Afraid of heights.
2. New proprietor of piano parlor sells large stinking pie loaded with hot peppers to get friend.
3. Parents who own milk plant might like to say they had large "dairy" babies.
4. Mame Gardner thins out thick underbrush to save favorite shrubs from being choked.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. QZ LOV PFMGPVZZ ZTPGXAB LEACZ, TL
PVQACZ OXB LX MBV LX LVABZ.

—By Gordon Miller

2. CYNIC LADY KRYZ VPZE WDAPEZ ZMP MGZ
"PLUCKAGE WTN": ZMP AZ LRAEL KR VP G

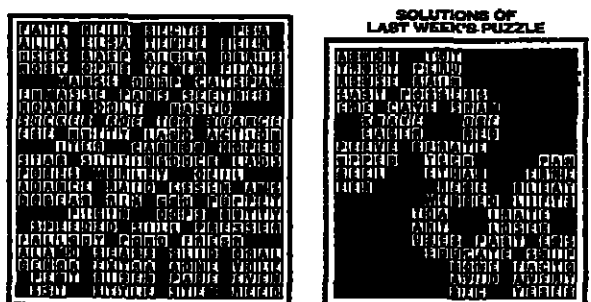
—By Ed Huddleston

3. DICKXUCDEK NXSQ BSQCUCF SELAK KLL
RAIN FOLESO BSQCUCF DKCOO FLCUP

—By Barbara J. Raux

4. ANATH QACKWQ CQ YCHERECL EWNE NY
KNURT ALBUT.

—By Norton Rhoades



Diagramless 10 X 10, By Harold B. Counts

- ACROSS
1 Non-com
2 Summer drink
3 Mischief
4 Puggles' item
5 Workmen
6 Ruffs
7 Root edge
8 Appraisal
9 One Euro, letters
10 Up — (corrected)
11 Modern pre

- 25 Highway hazard
26 Plus
27 Out
28 Nitty
29 Piece of furniture
30 Hunkered
31 Holiday times
32 Express
33 Shoved again
34 Call Me —

- 46 Cafe check
47 Max. money
48 Dipped
49 Asahi alliance
50 Letters
51 Unw
52 Conger
53 Chores
54 Sue — Langdon
55 Type of gown
56 Body of water
57 Fastener

- 57 Concept
58 Kind of rug
59 Assort
60 Stan
61 Move smoothly
62 Major and singer
63 Actor, dancer or singer
64 Captive
65 Large fangaroo
66 Above to posts
67 Large plane
68 UN gp.

- DOWN
1 Kind of gun
2 Improper
3 New gambling town
4 Joke
5 Odds
6 Farm machine
7 Link the spouts of
8 Junk
9 "I smell —"
10 Get off a booster
11 Mix
12 Roman poet

- 13 Air shafts
14 Lost domestic animal
15 Smoked beef
16 Smokeless
17 Made over
18 Sled
19 Cornucopia Fr.
20 Copied
21 Fr. a road
22 Goal
23 Farm machines

- 41 Snooze
42 Sweetshears
43 Movie dog
44 Revolver's
45 Target
46 Rad vegetable
47 Baste reminders
48 Explosive
49 Substance
50 Treat with contempt
51 Notice
52 Burdened

- 56 — than a doornail
57 Viper
58 Ranch animal
59 Sassy
60 Diabolical
61 Vicious
62 Substance
63 B.A. word
64 Grosse bonny
65 Dr. letter

Reshuffle closer after cabinet debate

(Continued from page 1)

ting the government for that particular reason.

Salim Zu'bi, minister of municipalities and the environment, also reportedly announced his intention to resign and called on his colleagues not to fall for the pressures and to reject the peace conference. Mr. Zu'bi is also considered to be a Pan-Arab ultranationalist.

"Zu'bi said that while there are people who believe that not participating is a form of suicide, he considered participation a form of treason," one of the sources told the Jordan Times.

Minister of Awqaf and Religious Affairs, Raef Nijem, who wrote his letter of resignation to the prime minister on Sept. 15, charged that "there are legitimate principles which a Muslim cannot compromise on regardless of the pressures and the worsening political and economic situation."

In the 5-page letter, a copy of which was made available to the Jordan Times, Mr. Nijem said any peace between Arabs and the "Jews" would necessarily be to the benefit of Israel since it still enjoyed the support of the U.S. while Arabs were at their weakest. He called for the return to the dictates of Islam and withstanding all pressures until such a time when the Arabs can negotiate a just and comprehensive settlement of the conflict.

"Therefore, and at a time when the government is taking a decision to participate in the 'regional' conference and in negotiations and although it is difficult for me to withdraw from the government, I nevertheless must submit my resignation hoping that God will guide you to all that is beneficial to this country," his letter said.

Although the final list of ministers who will resign from the cabinet will not be complete before next week, the sources expected that the reshuffle will include other ministers who will be asked to resign for administrative reasons.

With an eye to speeding up

the reshuffle process, the premier has already started consultations with independent political personalities and parliamentary blocs in preparation for the impending change.

Sources told the Jordan Times that the premier has already held a "lengthy" meeting with the head of the Constitution Bloc, Thouran Hindawi, to discuss the Bloc's prospective participation in the cabinet.

The Constitution Bloc, which is the second largest bloc in the lower house of parliament with 18 members, was excluded from the government formed by Mr. Masri but is widely expected to form the backbone of any cabinet reshuffle. It is largely made up of establishment figures and Arab nationalists.

Sources close to the bloc told the Jordan Times that there has not been any serious negotiations over the bloc's participation in the government and that this was largely contingent on "defining the aims and policies of the Masri government in the period ahead." Sources had earlier said that the Constitution Bloc would expect to occupy at least six cabinet posts to ensure its effectiveness within the cabinet.

The leftist Jordan Arab National Democratic Alliance (JANDA), which has five ministers in Mr. Masri's government, will lose at least one minister, Mr. Tarawneh, when the reshuffle takes place. No final decision has been taken yet on their continued presence in the government and sources close to the Alliance said a final decision will be taken when the Palestine National Council (PNC), currently meeting in Algiers, announces its position towards the peace conference.

The Democratic Bloc, which is the nucleus parliamentary body of JANDA, and the National Bloc, of which the premier is a member, joined technocrats and independent deputies to form the first Masri government in June and were widely seen as the main strength behind the premier.

Representation dominates PNC debate

(Continued from page 1)

Hawatmeh urges unity, clarity

Mr. Hawatmeh said he hoped the PNC would reach decisions which "are united and clear."

Mr. Hawatmeh said most PNC delegates accepted the need to take part to speak for themselves and "not just be represented by Arab countries or simply personalities from (Israeli-occupied) West Bank and Gaza Strip."

Mr. Arafat interrupted Mr. Hawatmeh from the floor: "It's not only the Americans but the Arab countries as well."

"Yes," Hawatmeh said. "They are Syria, Egypt, Jordan and even Lebanon."

The veteran guerrilla leader also drew applause with his announcements on his command's activities.

He announced that Democratic Front members carried out a "courageous military operation" against Israel early Tuesday. Israel said its forces killed three.

The raid was "a present from the DFLP to president Arafat and to the PNC," Mr. Hawatmeh said. "I urge all Palestinians to intensify the military activities against the Zionist occupation and to break the Arab borders by force as much as we can until we reach the enemy."

That was a direct challenge to Syria, where Mr. Hawatmeh's group is headquartered, and other front-line Arab states. They ban cross-frontier raids to avoid retaliation from militarily powerful Israel.

Asked later if the operation was meant to short-circuit the peace process, Mr. Hawatmeh said the raid should have no effect.

"Israel is still occupying our lands... and is still expanding. Yet it is not blamed for obstructing peace," Mr. Hawatmeh said. "We are practicing our legitimate right of resistance."

Mr. Habash called on the PNC to reject the U.S. plan he described as "a programme to liquidate the Palestinians question." Instead, he offered a strategy of struggle, increasing the infighting (uprising) in the occupied territories and inflicting "human and economic harm on our Zionist enemy."

Also addressing the conference was Sheikh Assad Al Tamimi of the Islamic Jihad (Beit Al-Maqdis) movement. He took the side of Mr. Arafat's opponents, who say the U.S. proposals are an unacceptable sellout of Palestinian interests.

His finger pointed at Mr. Arafat in the early hours of Wednesday.

day, Mr. Tamimi said. "After this life, there is either heaven or hell, so save yourself."

"You are chosen to become the next Saladin, so do not become one of the traitors... the Jews will give you nothing whatever you do," he added.

Saladin recaptured the Crusader kingdom of Jerusalem after the Muslim armies won the battle of Hittin in 1187.

Mr. Tamimi, whose movement is the smaller of two Muslim groups active in the Israeli-occupied territories, is among only a handful of fundamentalists attending the PNC, which is dominated by secular nationalists.

Hamas, the larger group, is boycotting the meeting because Mr. Arafat would not meet its demand for 40 per cent of the seats.

Mohammed Abbas, leader of the small hardline Palestine Liberation Front (PLF), told the parliament the U.S. proposals were "a conspiracy."

"They are asking us not only to join them in the funeral of our national cause but even to dig our own grave," said Mr. Abbas, also known as Abu Abbas.

Freij urges a yes

In the occupied territories, a leading West bank Palestinian mayor urged the PNC Wednesday to accept U.S. proposals for a Middle East peace conference.

"We have a good chance in the proposed peace conference. The Americans are determined to see this conference succeed," Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij told Israel radio.

"As long as all Arab countries and Israel... are going to accept the invitation then we really, the Palestinians, should... say yes to the Baker peace plan," he said.

They say U.S. assurances on the peace talks are inadequate and want a clear assertion of the Palestinian right to self-determination and of the principle of peace in exchange for land occupied by Israel.

Mr. Freij, who held talks on peace efforts with Jordanian officials three weeks ago after a visit to Washington, said he agreed with the Jordanians that there is a good chance for peace in the Middle East.

Hamas denounces

Hamas on Wednesday accused the PNC of "selling Palestine" and urged that any decisions be rejected.

The call was made in a leaflet

circulated in the occupied West Bank as the PNC was meeting in Algiers.

Hamas, which has been an active organiser of the 3-1/2 year uprising, earlier issued statements against participating in the conference.

Hamas wants to reclaim the land of Palestine on which Israel was created in 1948 as well as the occupied territories.

"We in Hamas and all the strugglers in Palestine and outside insist on rejecting this conference," the Hamas leaflet said. "We insist we are with our rights to demand all of Palestine."

It accused the PNC delegates of "not being representative of all the Palestinian people" and said their decisions had no legal basis.

"No one — not the PNC, the PLO or a person — has a right to say okay for selling part of Palestine," it concluded.

The leaflet called on Palestinians "to reject all the decisions the PNC will make" and to step up the uprising in the occupied territories.

Israel says 'no territory'

In Tel Aviv, a senior cabinet minister said Wednesday Israel would never return all Arab land.

"We've always known that the Americans are for almost total withdrawal," said Health Minister Elund Olmert, a close ally of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

"On this issue it is important that it be clear that our agreement to go to negotiations does not mean that we've agreed to total withdrawal," Mr. Olmert told Israel radio.

No bodyguards

At the conference, Mr. Arafat told Palestinian leaders Tuesday that their personal bodyguards would no longer be allowed to accompany them when they address the session.

"What are you afraid of? I'm the only one armed among you," he said, dressed in his traditional green fatigues and gumbel.

He interrupted the Marxist leader of the Palestine Popular Struggle Front, Samir Ghouthi, and said angrily: "Everyone rises to the podium with a guard, guarding him from what? Reject this! Bodyguards inside our council? This is not possible."

But George Habash, leader of the PFLP, was a special case. "He can rise to the podium with two or three," Mr. Arafat said.

U.S. sends missiles to S. Arabia

(Continued from page 1)

Commenting on the dispatch of Patriot missiles to Saudi Arabia, Gen. Powell said, "it is wise to be prudent."

But the Defence Department in Washington gave no hint that an attack on Iraq was imminent.

In Australia Prime Minister Bob Hawke joined other Western leaders in saying Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was pushing his luck and risked reprisals if he did not let the inspectors go.

Mr. Bush declined to answer reporters' questions on the issue.

Military experts in Washington said they doubted that Mr. Bush and his Gulf war allies would quickly resort to anything as drastic as pre-emptive air or missile strikes at Iraqi arms or com-

munications targets to back up demands for unrestricted U.N. weapons inspections.

Iraq on Tuesday did bow to council demands that it permit helicopters to fly unconditionally so U.N. inspectors could search out ballistic missiles. But its letter was not as clear cut as the council had wished.

Mr. Kay, one of the most forceful inspectors sent to Iraq under the U.N. search programme, told the U.S. CNN television network by telephone early on Wednesday evening.

"The situation has not changed in the past 24 hours. It's been an uphill battle we have spent most of the day writing reports. We are trying to arrange a formal dinner with MRES (U.S. army meals

ready to eat)." He said food had been supplied by other U.N. colleagues, adding: "It's simple but not what I would choose."

Asked about the spy charge levelled by Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz, he said: "There is absolutely no basis for that... it's ridiculous. But we are used to that out here."

Gen. Powell told U.S. lawmakers that the U.N. team "hit gold mines" of evidence documents Iraq's attempt to build nuclear weapons.

Gen. Powell declined to provide details, but said the documents showed Iraq "had extensive contacts around the world" to obtain equipment and know-how for its clandestine nuclear

programme.

Mr. Kay, reached by telephone, told the Associated Press that the records the investigators found provide "a very complete description of their nuclear programme... both their declared open programme and their clandestine programme..."

"No one is threatening force," a senior Western diplomat on the Security Council told Reuters.

"If they don't comply, we are not just going to go away and do nothing but that's the next stage," he added.

Rolf Ekenes, the head of the U.N. special commission in charge of scrapping Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, told reporters on Tuesday the documents may hold what he terms the "master plan" of Iraq's nuclear intentions.

Jordanian papers should do more

(Continued from page 1)

and deputies, Mr. Izziddin insists.

"If there is a controversial issue, it should be talked about and discussed in the newspapers," Mr. Izziddin says. "If there is an accusation, then investigate it, mention the controversy and take both sides of the story. This is what is lacking in our press."

Concerning the latest feud between lower house members and the press over the freedoms committee report, Mr. Izziddin, who is a member of the Upper House of Parliament, says that neither side should look at the other "in toto" and the two must refrain from making generalisations about each other.

The former minister thinks that the press is indeed not dealing with parliament in a fair manner and that they concentrate on reporting the "negative things." He urges the press to be more forthcoming and report the "positive."

"I wish the press took more interest in the in-depth matters of parliament; to talk about the people with names, about subjects and issues, rather than generalities," Mr. Izziddin stresses.

He adds that the local press was more active and reported many controversial issues at the beginning of the liberalisation process and no new issues have been reported in an in-depth manner lately, although the government has not been interfering with their publications.

Mr. Izziddin believes that since the beginning of the democratic process, the local press had "taken things gradually" but it is high time to move ahead in in-depth reporting to create a national debate, such as on issues like unemployment, poverty and public freedoms. There is nothing to hide.

Yiad Qattan, director of the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) and a member of the committee charged with drafting the national charter, agrees with Mr. Izziddin that investigative journalism is absent from the local press, particularly in the three Arabic newspapers. He believes that this is the main reason why "the press hasn't been progressing in harmony with the democratic process" in the Kingdom.

Mr. Shbeilat had charged last week that the press had not changed since the democratisation process started.

"There were investigative reports in the three newspaper-

ers during the days of oppression and now it has almost totally disappeared," Mr. Qattan contends, agreeing with Mr. Shbeilat that the press was not "matching developments in the democratic process."

He also agrees with the Islamist deputy that the report by the lower house's Public Freedoms Committee should have been published in the newspapers, especially because the report raised an important issue.

"If something is done by a parliamentary committee, and if it does not endanger national security and is supported by facts and evidence, then everyone must know about it and it should be published in full," Mr. Qattan maintains.

Mr. Qattan stresses that the deputies should not demand that all their activities and speeches be printed in the newspapers. He notes that no democratic country in the world would print everything that comes out of its parliament. "A lot of jargon and rubbish is said in every parliament in the world and their papers don't publish everything that is being said."

Mr. Qattan, however, accuses newspaper editors of publishing only what is agreeable with their own personal opinions, and that they are afraid of "upsetting people."

He says that if a newspaper wanted to attract parliament "then they should expose the ins and outs and investigate the deputies themselves."

He claims that so far no deputy or any government department has been investigated by the press.

"If we want to expose the negative sides of the democratic process and to correct it, then there must be investigative reporting of all worthy issues," Mr. Qattan says.

Mr. Hikmat, on the other hand, defends the editors, whom he says had the sole privilege of what to publish, and he says they were rightly playing it safe because they still do not know where they stand on the policy of their papers because of the ownership issue.

The major shares of the three newspapers are still owned by the government, mainly, through its public funds establishments.

The ownership issue should be cleared once and for all so that the editors can decide whether or not they are a mouthpiece for the government and determine their legal and political status," Mr. Hikmat says. Sawt Al Sha'ab is a government publication and the major shares of the two other newspapers were bought by the government before the 1989 elections, and have not yet been resold to the private sector as has been promised.

The former minister also contends that the newspapers lacked proper analyses of news and events, and that their writers depend on their emotions in commenting upon and analysing events.

"Rarely do I see analyses in the Arabic newspaper, and if the emotions in the newspapers do not stop, and if first-hand reporting continues to be non-existent in these papers, then they won't be able to level up to the other newspapers that will emerge in the future," Mr. Hikmat says.

Another point which observers generally agree on is that

having only three (Arabic) daily newspapers in the country is restricting the journalists, who themselves want to investigate certain stories.

Mr. Qattan urges the licensing of other dailies before the passing of the new press and publications law, contending that the law has nothing to do with starting new newspapers.

Licences for new publications are expected to be granted after parliament passes the new draft law that is being currently discussed at committee level. But new weekly newspapers have sprung up and are distributed in the Kingdom under offshore licences until the government approves their publication here.

There must be competition in the press, Mr. Qattan maintains, adding that it would motivate newspapers to investigate important issues.

"The problem is that the embargo on new newspapers has not yet been lifted and we are still at the mercy of three," says Labib Kamhawi, professor of political science and a political activist.

Dr. Kamhawi says there is a "monopoly" on the press in the country by Al Ra'i, Al Dastour and Sawt Al Sha'ab. These are old establishments which have been trying to "appease the establishment."

Dr. Kamhawi contends, saying there should be "pluralism" in the press just like in politics.

He also believes that the press has not progressed with democracy, and agrees with Senator Izziddin that the main newspapers were more liberal at the beginning of the democratic process than they are today.

"Their intolerance is increasing and their ceiling of democratic freedoms is being sharply reduced," Dr. Kamhawi says, maintaining that the Public Freedoms Committee's report should have been published "and given reasonable assessment from all sides."

Until new licences are issued to daily newspapers, some observers believe, the existing press establishments should take into account all sides of the story, or at least to allow for differing opinions to be carried by their newspapers, including those of the lower house whose opinions do not have to coincide with those of the editors.

Journalist and deputy Fakhri Kassar notices that the newspapers were not being fair in their coverage of parliament and that there was an "indication of imbalance and favouritism" in their reporting, as he puts it.

Mr. Kassar suggests that there be a "multi-opinion" press whereby all viewpoints could be expressed.

"If these newspapers are to express the viewpoints of the government, then there should be other papers for the people," he says.

Economist Dr. Jawad Anani, however, suggests that the existing press should be open to all the opinions so that no one side complains, as was the case when the Islamist and other deputies complained over the press coverage of their activities.

"The press should be open to all opinions and should provide equal opportunity for every viewpoint so that no one can complain," Dr. Anani says.

Hostage will be released

(Continued from page 1)

one of six Israeli servicemen missing in Lebanon.

But defence ministry spokesman Danny Naveh also complained that Iran had failed to meet a commitment it gave earlier this month before Israel released a first batch of Arab prisoners.

Israel has offered to free more Arabs in return for the Israeli servicemen. Groups in Lebanon are offering Western hostages in return for their counterparts in

Israel.

Israel, engaged in protracted negotiations on the deal through the mediation of U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, welcomed the release of British Jack Mann by pro-Iranian kidnappers on Tuesday but said Mr. Arafat was the key to an Israeli decision to free more of the Arab prisoners.

Mr. Arafat, shot down over Lebanon in November 1986, is the only one of the missing Israelis known to have survived.

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Kiptanui wins gold medal for Kenya at All Africa Games

CAIRO (R) — World 3,000 metres steeplechase champion Moses Kiptanui took gold at the All Africa Games after Kenyan athletics officials ordered him to ignore a nagging injury and run.

"At first I was not supposed to run and then a quick decision was made so that I should run as there was no replacement for me," said Kiptanui, who indicated he was suffering from a calf strain.

Kiptanui said he has been carrying the injury since shortly after winning the Tokyo last month but felt it was his duty to perform for his country.

"This injury is still giving me pain, but I had to run just like a soldier," he said.

He added the injury would take two months to heal.

The gamble paid off in the short term as Kenya's formidable steeplechasers monopolised the medals.

William Mutwol and Johnstone Kipkoech followed Kiptanui home after the 20-year-old finished in eight minutes 27.09 seconds, some 20 seconds outside his personal best.

Kiptanui is the first of Africa's

seven world champions to appear at this sporadically-staged continental games which has drawn an apathetic response from big stars exhausted after a tough season on the Grand Prix circuit.

It was a successful night for Kenya all round with William Tanui and Robert Kibet completing a one-two in the 800 metres after Erick Keter had taken the 400 metres hurdles.

Susan Sirma, a bronze medalist in Tokyo, sauntered to an easy victory in the 3,000 metres to give the east African country yet another gold.

Agents Chelimo completed their joy when she broke her own African record to win the women's five kilometres walk in 24 minutes 25.0 seconds.

The athletics is, as expected, shaping up into a straight battle between Nigeria and Kenya.

The Nigerians, who edged Kenya by one gold in athletics at the last African Games, struck gold in the men's long jump and women's 4x100 metre relay Tuesday.

Kenyan William Tanui and Robert Kibet underlined the east African country's depth of talent

in the 800 metres where they took gold and silver.

The pair controlled the race from the start with Tanui charging past Kibet after they had come off the final bend together.

"The race went according to strategy as we got a one-two finish," Tanui said.

"I'm disappointed that it was not a good time but the track did not really feel comfortable," he added. Tanui clocked one minute 47.40 seconds.

Kenya registered fresh success in the 5,000 metres walk where Agneta Chelimo successfully defended the title she won at the age of 13 in Nairobi in 1987.

Chelimo clipped over 20 seconds off her own African record as she crossed the line in 24 minutes 25.0 seconds.

"I would have liked to lower the record further but I had some worries over my footwork and had to slow down," she said.

Meanwhile, the manager of the Nigerian boxing squad criticised standards in the sport at the All Africa Games Wednesday, comparing boxing here with street fighting.

Keikei Yope said he was dis-

appointed by what he had seen in the preliminary stages and expected his country to win the lion's share of medals on offer.

"The general standard of boxing? Very low... I believe that the standard is so low we won't need much effort to win eight golds," Yope said.

"Most of what we have seen so far has been more like street fighting than boxing," he added.

Yope said most fighters were unable to avoid taking blows and many had little idea of the tactics required to score points.

He said the performances did not augur well for African boxers with the Barcelona Olympics only 10 months away.

"We are not seeing the standard you expect in a pre-Olympic competition."

Traditionally, Kenyans are the kings of African boxing, sweeping eight of 12 gold medals at the last All Africa Games in 1987 and winning gold at the 1988 Olympics with welterweight Robert Wanjala.

"I expected the Kenyans to exhibit their traditional level but they must have over-trained," Yope said.

British athletes want life ban for doping

OSLO (R) — The majority of top British athletes questioned in a survey want life bans for competitors who test positive for banned drugs, the British Sports Council said Wednesday.

"Elite athletes it seems would not be as squeamish as officials in dealing out harsh punishment to their drug-taking colleagues," Professor Peter Radford, a representative of the sports council, told the Third World conference on anti-doping in sport.

A survey of 102 athletes from 20 sports Olympic training camps this month, showed that 51 per cent wanted life bans for those who failed dope tests while 24 per cent wanted a five-year ban.

Another 24 per cent wanted a one-year ban while 0.5 per cent wanted a three-month ban and 0.5 per cent a warning only.

But only one per cent felt a competitor should be barred for life on a first offence if the banned substance taken was part of medical treatment for a common ailment.

Asked what they believed about the number of competitors using banned drugs in Britain, 33 per cent of those questioned said it was insignificant, 63 per cent said it was small and only four per cent thought it was large.

tense self-scrutiny."

Other delegates felt the individual athlete was not the only one to blame. The whole world of top sports had become obsessed with times and breaking records.

"Doping is not an athlete's strategy but a system's strategy. Therefore the focus should not only be on the individual," said Professor Gennar Breivik of the Norwegian University of Sports and Physical Education.

He suggested coaches and officials might also be punished, although guilt might often be difficult to establish.

Prof. Breivik told delegates: "Doping seems to be much like cancer. We will have to live with it without accepting it."

"We will have to control it without being able to eradicate it. It does not come in one form and has not one cause but is, rather, a many-headed monster."

Soviets detail doping abuse

A Soviet report presented at the conference said many top Soviet athletes still equate doping with winning and more than two-fifths of them consider the use of drugs essential.

"This reflects the extensive use ... that has gone on for many years in Eastern Europe," said Norwegian Hans B. Skaset, co-chairman of the conference.

He said other countries would probably not report "such extreme numbers" as the Soviet have.

The Soviet report said 44 per cent of 240 top athletes surveyed considered doping "essential and even inevitable" for winning and that 36 per cent assumed rivals used drugs or hormones to boost their performance.

Conference participants — including track stars Sebastian Coe of England and Edwin Moses of the United States — were to discuss the extent and types of doping found in international sports.

The conference is seeking ways to combat drug abuse through education and international cooperation, but will not make any binding decision.

Preliminary results from the 1990-91 Soviet study said most banned substances appear to be sold on the black market in the Soviet Union. About 72 per cent of the anabolic steroids that Soviet athletes admitted using are not manufactured or legally sold in the Soviet Union.

Drug abuse on the increase in Canada

Meanwhile the chairman of the Sport Medicine Council of Canada said Tuesday drug abuse by Canadian athletes is on the rise, despite the publicity and increased testing following the banning of Ben Johnson.

"In Canada, as elsewhere in North America, there is disturbing evidence which suggests that the use of a number of banned drugs is on the increase," Doctor Andrew Pipe told the conference.

Dr. Pipe said that 28 out of 2,024 tests carried out in 1989-1990 were found to be positive.

"It is anticipated that the proportion of unannounced tests will continue to increase in Canada, as will the absolute number of tests carried out each year," he told the four-day conference.

After Johnson tested positive at the 1988 Seoul Olympics and lost the 100 metres title, Canada closely examined the problem of drugs in sports.

Dr. Pipe felt it "disturbing" doping continued in a nation which had undergone "such in-

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Egypt sacks soccer coach

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's sports authorities Wednesday fired Dietrich Weise, a German, as coach of its national team and, at President Hosni Mubarak's prodding, rehired former coach Mahmoud Al Gohary. The action was precipitated by two defeats that eliminated Egypt's national team from the soccer competition in the fifth All Africa Games that opened in Cairo last Friday. Mr. Mubarak in effect forced Al Gohary's reinstatement by awarding him the Order of the Republic, First Class, the national's highest sports decoration. The citation singled out Al Gohary's efforts in shepherding the national team to the World Cup finals in Rome last year for the first time in 56 years. The official list of decorations and medals says the Order of Sports is awarded to "those who render outstanding services to sport and those who train international champions." Weise, 57, was appointed last November for a monthly salary of about \$8,000 plus housing and other expenses. He had previously coached Egypt's Ahly Club team.

Maradona's brother to play in Japan

TOKYO (AP) — The youngest brother of Argentine soccer superstar Diego Maradona has agreed to play for a Japanese professional team next year, a club official said Wednesday. Ugo Maradona, 22, will play for the PFM Futures team, said the official, who requested anonymity and refused to give other details of the contract. He said PFM Futures is to announce the deal Thursday. Ugo, who currently plays for Rapid Vienna, would make his Japan debut in June next year.

Welsh manager hits out at Germans

BONN (R) — Welsh manager Terry Yorath has resumed his verbal attack on German soccer ahead of the teams' key European Championship qualifier next month by blaming coach Reo Beckenbauer for a decline in the world champions' form. Yorath, who accused the 46-year-old of being soccer's biggest actors before the Welsh upset Germany 1-0 in Cardiff in June, was quoted Wednesday as saying that last year's departure of World Cup coach Franz Beckenbauer had hurt the Germans. "I can't imagine that the German players see in Berti the same thing they saw in his predecessor, a man of the same level," Yorath told the German magazine Sports. "The Germans have lost a lot because of the change. You can see that from the results in the qualifying."

WBC will not lift ban on S. Africa

BANGKOK (R) — The World Boxing Council (WBC) has decided not to lift its 16-year boycott of South Africa. The

decision would only be reviewed if South Africa set up a unified boxing administration representing all racial groups fairly. President Jose Sulaiman said at the organisation's convention. The WBC sent a fact-finding team to the republic in July. "They concluded that despite amendments to the constitution there had been no direct disintegration of apartheid," Sulaiman said. "The changes are only on paper, we should not ease sanctions until there are real actions to end it."

Only 3 seeds survive in Sicily

PALERMO, Sicily (R) — Spaniard Emilio Sanchez, Guillermo Perez-Roldan of Argentina and Austria's Thomas Muster were the only seeds to survive the first round of the Sicily International Tennis championships. Top seed Sanchez, the Italian Open champion ranked 12th in the world, cruised past Uruguayan Diego Perez 6-4 6-0. Perez-Roldan, the 21-year-old fifth seed and winner at San Marino this year, beat Spaniard Francisco Roig 6-3 7-5. Eighty-seeded Muster, upset by British Davis Cup debutant Mark Petchey last Friday in Austria's defeat in the World Group qualifier in Manchester, crushed Haiti's Aigner 6-0 6-4. The second seed, Croatian-born Goran Prpic was eliminated in two sets Monday night by Italy's Renzo Furlan. Australian Horst Skoff, the third seed, fell 7-6 6-2 to another Italian, Diego Nargiso. The other seeds beaten were Sanchez's brother Javier and fellow-Spaniard Francisco Clavet, while sixth-seeded Italian Omar Camporese withdrew with a wrist injury.

Connors whips Frenchman in Switzerland

BASEL, Switzerland (AP) — Fourth-seeded Petr Korda of Czechoslovakia overcame Anders Jarryd of Sweden in the first round of the \$750,000 Swiss Indoors tennis tournament Tuesday, advancing to meet U.S. veteran Jimmy Connors. Korda, the world's 14th-ranked player, defeated Jarryd 3-6, 6-4, 6-3 to reach the second round. Connors, in his first ATP Tour appearance since a Sept. 7 semifinal defeat at the U.S. Open, whipped French qualifier Laurent Prades in straight sets 6-3, 6-1. A wild card entry at Basel, 39-year-old Connors ranks 66th worldwide.

Iraq to send marksmen to Barcelona

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq will take part in only two events at the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games — shooting and weightlifting. A spokesman for the Iraqi National Olympic Committee was quoted by the official press Wednesday as saying trials for the shooting team would be held early next year. Iraqi weightlifters last competed abroad at the 1986 Asian Games in Seoul, where they won three silver medals and a bronze.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 26, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Centre your activities in interests that have to do with governmental responsibilities or where obligations connected with big moneys and big business are concerned. Look into new ways to improve your health.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You can't get what you want early but the afternoon is fine for friendships put tonight asleep that desire to tell off an associate you know.

Taurus (April 20 to May 20) There are a number of secret societies early but don't let them get the better of you early, then the afternoon is fine for outside activities.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) This is the time to be sure you do nothing to aggravate a friend, you should plan for the future wisely and try to side-step trouble that comes.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) The morning brings delays in some vocational activities but the afternoon brings the good will of an executive you are in need of.

LEO (July 22 to August 21) You find it difficult to get that new condition in motion early but the afternoon brings help from an unusual partner and the evening is best for relaxing.

VIRGO (August 22 to September 22) You have some interesting means by which to attend to your obligations so stop delaying and do so now, then you can join attendance for some fun.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A meeting to show you value an associate who seems filled with troubles, then the afternoon is good for pleasures and

to get your hobbies in order.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) The morning finds you with so many projects to do you don't know where to commence, the afternoon brings assistance from fellow associates.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) This is the time for you to plan future social activities for some company, the afternoon brings assistance from fellow associates.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 20) In the morning do nothing that could upset your family, then the afternoon finds you able to handle financial affairs so you can do something about the future.

AQUARIUS (January 21 to February 19) The morning is needed for catching up on routines that have been lagging, the afternoon for personal pleasures and for getting out messages.

PISCES (February 20 to March 20) In the morning be sure to study what your financial situation actually is, the afternoon for quickly getting ideas from an expert you respect.

Tuesday's date: If your child were born today she or he has a great deal of force and vitality at their command and has a special liking to change conditions about them even when it may not be necessary or even applicable to the matter at hand. This property has a real talent for solving the problems of other people especially if government is involved.

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

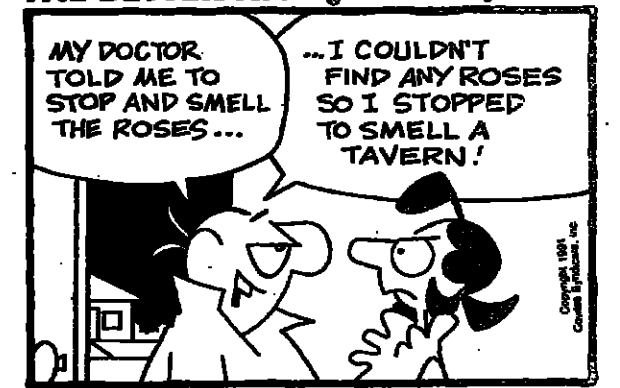
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Answer: A "OOO" - "O" - "OOO" (Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: BERET NAIVE MAGNET SCHOOL Answer: What the lion tamer would have preferred - TAMER LIONS

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 27, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This day you will need to use every ounce of self control that you possess to keep from making remarks that will lead to arguments and quarrels as the Moon squares Venus.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) This is your day to use your good common sense in the handling of the material and property interests that are so important to your security.

Taurus (April 20 to May 20) Spend early hours getting your health and charm at a new level after which you are able to go out on the town and have a wonderful time.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You have all kinds of possibilities to show you can get rid of those little irritations early then later be very busy at other activities.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) A day to first make plans carefully for you can go out socially with friends and thoroughly enjoy yourselves out on the town.

LEO (July 22 to August 21) Your need for more support from those high standing requires you do the little things they like after which you can go out and have a good time.

VIRGO (August 22 to September 22) Think over a better course of action under which to gain your aims and then later you can see those people and do those things that bring you joy.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A day to make sure that you do use the early part of the day to get those events behind you after which you are

able to enjoy a romantic time.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Don't get in an argument with a partner this morning or you can make a better opponent but later you find you can come to a new agreement.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Now you are able to find the answers to project issues early so handle them cleverly and you are able to gain the aid you wish from associates.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 20) Your interest in having a good time is all right but you would be wise early to make big preparations early in the day to have greatest possible enjoyment.

AQUARIUS (January 21 to February 19) You are able to find that clever thing to do that will please your own household and bring you more support for the conditions you want.

PISCES (February 20 to March 20) Show your usual contacts that you want to do something for them this day instead of just doing what pleases you and you get considerable more backing.

Today's date: If your child were born today she or he cuts through all the red tape and unimportant details, getting right to the gist of any subject or situation for the less trouble than most persons would encounter. They will be involved in current inventions and modern methods that will be utilized to the benefit of mankind.

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSH OF 19191 Tours Media Services, Inc.

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AKQ95 ♠A1063 07 ♣Q87
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♣ Pass 2 ♣ Pass
What action do you take?

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠876 ♣Q5 010862 ♠AJ103
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♣ Pass 2 ♣ Pass
3 ♣ Pass 2 ♣ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠106543 ♠962 06 ♠A1065
Partner opens the bidding with one diamond. What action do you take?

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠106543 ♠962 06 ♠A1065
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♣ Pass
2 ♣ Pass 2 ♣ Pass
What action do you take?

Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠Q53 ♠1074 ♠AKQ103 ♠62
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♣ Pass 2 ♣ Pass
3 ♣ Pass 2 ♣ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠874 ♣Q6 ♠AQ62 ♠KJ768
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♣ Dbl ?
What do you bid now?

THE Daily Crossword by Evelyn Benshoof



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Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS
1 Destruction
5 Ornamental fastener
8 Mud
13 Yolk
15 Mine deposit
16 Lulu
17 Tied a fire
18 News item
19 podrida
20 Postscriptal trips
22 Precede
23 Patisserie item
24 Flavourful
26 The Desert
30 Electric unit
31 Melville opus
32 Precede
35 Guesy
39 Estate
41 Taka advantage
42 Increase suddenly
43 Apt
44 Arrow
45 Seafood item
47 Energetic
49 Manage with means at hand
51 Lake near Carson City
53 Prognostication
55 Duff royalty
56 Sily slight
62 Arab port
63 Touched ground
64 Vest
65 Capote
66 Harassed persistently
67 Place on a pedestal
68 Kind of silver: abbr.
69 Ruminant
70 Roman calendar date
6 Automaton
7 Asiel chief
8 Affects
9 Stuffed
10 Cove
11 Fresh team
12 QED word
14 Part of P.I.
21 Beer ingredients
25 Mountains
26 Cover
27 Sheriff
28 One: pref.
29 Bootlegger's den
30 Deviate
33 Valise or York
34 "Born in the"
36 A Gardner
37 Old oath
38 Name
40 Used car e.g.
43 Govt. agts.
45 Bounty
50 Opportunity for gain
51 Fortunetelling card
52 "What's in —"
53 Binary compound
54 Bishop's hat
55 Curs
56 Face cream ingredient
57 Skirt style
58 Toward the mouth
60 Glow the eye
61 Profits

Lydia



Jeff



Jeff



Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close	Tokyo Close
Sterling Pound	1.7270	1.7305
Deutsche Mark	1.6872	1.6823
Swiss Franc	1.4675	1.4670
French Franc	5.7495	5.7235
Japanese Yen	133.50	133.22
European Currency Unit	1.2130	1.2185

European Currency Unit

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.45	5.57	5.62	5.81
Sterling Pound	10.43	10.25	10.00	9.93
Deutsche Mark	9.06	9.06	9.25	9.31
Swiss Franc	8.00	8.00	8.00	7.81
French Franc	9.18	9.31	9.37	9.40
Japanese Yen	7.00	6.50	6.25	6.00
European Currency Unit	9.75	9.87	9.75	9.75

Precious Metals

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	553.50	6.85	Silver	4.26	0.95

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Buy	Offer
U.S. Dollar	1.587	1.589
Sterling Pound	1.1874	1.1935
Deutsche Mark	1.4073	1.4093
Swiss Franc	1.4681	1.4704
French Franc	1.1196	1.1202
Japanese Yen	1.5151	1.5177
Dutch Guilder	1.3613	1.3631
Swedish Krona	1.1117	1.1123
Italian Lira	1.0945	1.0948
Belgian Franc	1.0196	1.0206

Other Currencies

Currency	Buy	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7650	1.7700
Lebanese Lira	0.0770	0.0775
Saudi Riyal	1.828	1.837
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.861	1.874
Qatari Riyal	1.861	1.874
Egyptian Pound	1.2000	1.2100
Omani Riyal	1.7200	1.7300
UAE Dirham	1.861	1.874
Greek Drachma	1.3650	1.3700
Cypriot Pound	1.4600	1.4700

CAD Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	25/9/1991 Close	24/9/1991 Close
All-Share	119.31	119.32
Banking Sector	99.95	99.73
Insurance Sector	120.49	120.84
Industry Sector	148.89	149.21
Services Sector	126.77	127.08

OECD: Italy needs to get tough on public sector wages

ROME (R) — The Italian government must restrict public sector wage rises if it wants to meet targets for cutting the huge state deficit, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has said.

Noting that Italy's national debt exceeded the total output of its economy last year for the first time since World War II, the OECD said there was little room left for the government to raise taxes to bridge its spending gap.

"The brunt of the adjustment will have to be carried by public expenditure, notably the public sector wage bill, subsidies and social transfers," it said in its annual review of the Italian economy.

But it expressed caution about government plans to slash the public sector deficit to around six per cent of annual economic output by 1994 from more than 10 per cent at present.

"As in the past, the deficit-reducing steps may prove less efficient than planned and some of the measures will not result in lasting improvements," it said.

Nevertheless, the economy could see stronger growth next year, helped by greater business confidence and export demand.

The OECD said output could expand by between 2.5 and three per cent in 1992, compared with growth of little over one per cent this year, according to most economists' estimates.

But it was worried by unemployment and inflation at around

twice as high as in other major European Community countries.

The OECD said inflation, running at around 6.3 per cent year-on-year, twice that of France, could slow to five per cent in the second half of 1992. But at that point there was a risk that prices could begin to rise again.

The government's decision to take the lira into the narrow band of the European Monetary System (EMS) last year meant high labour costs and inflation seriously undermined Italy's ability to compete on international markets.

"The new commitment to stable exchange rates makes it all the more urgent to return swiftly to a path of disinflation, the OECD said.

Soviets may run out of fuel this winter

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union could run out of fuel this winter, and the West might have to help the world's biggest oil producer meet the gap, European Community (EC) External Relations Commissioner Frans Andriessen has said.

He would not say how much aid the Soviet Union might need to avert fuel shortages. According to Soviet estimates, the nation's oil output fell six per cent last year to 570 million tonnes and is expected to drop to 540 million tonnes by 1995.

"Transferral of money will not be enough to stop the problems," Mr. Andriessen said.

While rich in natural resources, the Soviet Union is lumbered with outdated equipment and a creaking infrastructure.

Stocks of oil — a vital hard currency earner for Moscow — have dwindled ahead of the peak winter season, leaving the world's top producer in the unenviable position of facing possible shortages as it struggles to jumpstart its economy.

"The idea that there might be supply difficulties for energy are rather recent," Mr. Andriessen said. "If there is a real need then we have to see whether we can give some support."

When asked how much help the 12-nation EC might offer Mr. Andriessen said: "It has to be a global operation, not (just) of a European nature."

The Group of Seven (G-7) leading industrial nations, which has tied large-scale aid to Soviet economic reform, should discuss Moscow's energy needs and what to offer, he said.

But he said the G-7 — the

United States, Japan, Germany, France, Britain, Italy and Canada — may no longer be dealing just with Moscow after last month's coup attempt catapulted independence drives in the nation's republics.

Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania have won independence. Nine more republics have said they want to leave too.

"We started (offering aid) in a centralised way. We may now have to go to a more decentralised approach with a central coordination," Mr. Andriessen said.

The EC earmarked technical help worth 400 million European Currency Units (\$480 million) for Moscow in its 1991 budget and has proposed increasing that by 100 million (\$120 million) next year, he said.

Dutch Foreign Minister Hans Van Den Broek said: "The EC should not act independently and on its own."

He told reporters any help should follow economic reform and be coordinated by the G-7, but added, "there is a strong political will to back up the (Soviet) economic development."

Cyprus Airways lost \$1.9 million in 1990

NICOSIA (R) — Cyprus Airways lost 900,000 Cyprus pounds (about \$1.9 million) in 1990 because of the Gulf crisis and expects the repercussions of the crisis to affect its 1991 performance.

Company Chairman Kikis Lazarides said in his annual report that on the basis of financial results up to the Gulf crisis the airline had expected to return to profitability in 1990.

He said the 1990 results still represented a significant improvement from the 1.4 million pound (about \$2.9 million) loss of 1989.

Cyprus Airways is two-thirds government owned. It has postponed taking delivery of an Airbus 320 aircraft, leased out another and reduced capital expenditure in order to minimise the impact of the Gulf crisis in 1991.

Germany needs more foreign investment

NEW YORK (R) — German Economics Minister Juergen Moellmann, on a U.S. tour, has said his country needs more foreign investors to shoulder the economic burden of a reunited Germany.

U.S. investment would be a boon to Europe as a whole, and meshed with Germany's goal to foster "trade, not aid," he said in an interview.

In the 40 years of separation after World War II, the 11 western states which formed West Germany developed into a gleaming economic powerhouse. What was socialist East Germany, though the pride of the then Soviet Bloc, languished amongst crumbling roads and an erratic telephone system.

Growth, despite the Oct. 3, 1990 reunification, remains uneven. Mr. Moellmann forecast growth for all of Germany, including the five eastern states, at more than two per cent, but less than three per cent in 1991. In the western states alone growth should be more than three per cent in 1991, he said.

Growth in eastern Germany was currently "decidedly negative" but could recover to reach 10 per cent in 1992, he said.

Germany's growth is heavily export-dependent. In 1990 it exported 35 per cent of all its goods and services, compared with only 15 per cent for Japan, and eight per cent for the United States.

To foster trade, Mr. Moellmann, 46, favours an agreement by the end of the year on world trade liberalisation within the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. The talks have gone on for five years, faltering over subsidies for farming goods and other sectors.

"We must set new priorities. We must do more to build up eastern Europe and we also want fair trade. This means that national protectionist barriers must be done away with, in agriculture and in other areas," he said.

Saudi Aramco plans to borrow \$1.5b from banks

MANAMA, Bahrain (R) — State-owned oil giant Saudi Aramco is planning to raise \$1.5 billion from foreign banks in its first major international borrowing, Riyadh-based economists and bankers said Tuesday.

Confirming reports from London-based bankers, they said the U.S. firm J.P. Morgan — which arranged a tightly held \$4.5 billion loan for the Saudi government in May — would lead the syndicated loan.

There were no further details and Saudi Aramco executives were not available for comment.

Bankers in the kingdom said the firm, which is the kingdom's main source of funds, may need extra cash because its oil income was still being swallowed up by an estimated \$65 billion worth of Gulf war costs.

Riyadh notched up a budget deficit of \$16 billion in 1990 and a similar 1991 shortfall was expected, economists say.

Earlier this year, Saudi Arabia gave state-owned industries the green light to borrow on commercial terms from local banks.

Saudi Aramco is forging ahead with a multi-billion dollar expansion programme which will boost its crude output to a sustainable 10 million barrels per day by the end of 1994 from 8.5 million at present.

The expansion costs between \$15 and \$20 billion but payments would be spread out to the year 2000 and Saudi Aramco was not believed to be facing cash flow problems at present, economists and bankers said.

There was some speculation Riyadh would put some of the \$1.5 billion directly into outstanding Gulf war bills.

"Every bank would love to lead to Saudi Aramco because its an excellent credit risk and could command good terms," one bank manager in Riyadh said.

"But they are cash-rich. The government has a short-term cash squeeze so possibly they will use the money instead," he said.

"It's all one pool basically — Aramco money could be tapped by the government if needed and it could also be used to cover expansion costs," a senior economist in the kingdom said.

"There is a liquidity squeeze and Aramco could get excellent rates," he added.

The kingdom's Gulf war costs include payments to countries which supported the U.S.-led coalition as well as food, housing and transport costs for foreign troops which forced Iraqis from Kuwait. More money is being spent on arms to boost Riyadh's defence capability.

Brazil's flagship privatisation collapses in chaos

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (R) — Brazil suspended its flagship privatisation at the last minute Tuesday as left-wing militants pelted would-be investors with eggs outside the Rio De Janeiro stock exchange and lawyers in three cities squabbled over the legality of the sale.

Shortly before the \$980 million auction of shares in Usiminas, the country's biggest steelmaker, was due to start, the government official overseeing the privatisation sent a terse telex to the stock exchange telling off its sale.

Hundreds of demonstrators had besieged the Rio Stock Exchange where the sale was due to begin, hurling eggs at bankers trying to enter the building and chanting "privatisation — no, no, no."

Fearing that union militants would carry out a threat to invade the building and smash equipment, exchange staff hastily bolted the main entrance, leaving would-be investors out in the street.

Military police stood by as the protesters, shouting abuses, chased pinstripe-suited bankers down side streets. Two shots were fired by security guards but no injuries or arrests were reported.

Inside the exchange, exchange officials described bourse president Francisco de Souza Dantas as being so "extremely upset" that he temporarily lost the use of one hand.

A statement issued afterwards by the National Development Bank overseeing the sale said the suspension was called "in the face of last-minute political and judicial actions which aim to make the auction of Usiminas ordinary shares unviable."

The collapse of the sale was a bitter defeat for President Fernando Collor de Mello, who made privatisation, a key plank in his manifesto for modernising Brazil's state-dominated economy.

Mr. Collor, whose popularity has slumped since he failed to get a grip on inflation or pull the economy out of recession, badly needed a success to restore his authority. He telephoned the bank president Eduardo Modiano four times Tuesday morning, demanding that the Usiminas auction go ahead "at all costs."

Investment bankers had said the successful sale of Usiminas, one of the country's most profitable and modern state enterprises, was essential if the government was to have any chance of keeping to its target of selling off 27 state companies by the end of 1992.

IMF gives Nicaragua first loan in decade

WASHINGTON (R) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has announced a \$56 million standby loan for Nicaragua, its first loan in over a decade to the impoverished central American country.

The funds will be disbursed over the next 18 months to support President Violeta Chamorro's 1991-92 economic programme, the bank said.

After defeating the left-wing Sandinistas in elections held February last year, Mrs. Chamorro quickly moved to remove vestiges of socialism in the economy.

Her free-market economic programme, "designed with the support of the IMF, the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), is already bearing fruit," the IMF said.

"Inflation is declining, public sector finances are showing a marked improvement, international reserves are rising and economic growth is beginning to recover," it said.

A group of 17 countries — including the United States and Japan — this month provided Nicaragua \$320 million in loans and grants, with which it cleared its arrears with the World Bank and the IADB, becoming eligible for new lending.

Monetary sources said the IMF last extended a loan to Nicaragua in May 1979, two months before the Sandinistas took power in a popular insurrection which overthrew right-wing dictator Anastasio Somoza.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.7365/75	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.1341/46	Canadian dollar
	1.6785/92	Deutsche mark
	1.8920/30	Dutch guilder
	1.4620/30	Swiss franc
	34.58/62	Belgian franc
	5.7175/25	French franc
	1255/1256	Italian lire
	132.95/133.05	Japanese yen
	6.1220/70	Swedish crown
	6.5670/20	Norwegian crown
	6.4750/4800	Danish crown
One ounce of gold	352.50/353.00	U.S. dollars

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Baga-Amman - Jordan

Telephone No. 725411/2

Fax No. 726099

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Soviet army to stay out of ethnic conflicts

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet Defence Ministry has instructed regional military commanders not to intervene in ethnic conflicts in sovereign republics, Soviet News Agency (TASS) reported Tuesday.

The announcement by Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Vladimir Lobov follows Monday's order by one regional commander that Soviet troops not be used in Tajikistan to enforce a state of emergency, TASS said.

Col. Gen. Ivan Fuzhenko, commander of the Turkestan military district, ordered that no Soviet troops in Central Asia be deployed in Tajikistan where thousands of people have massed outside the republic's parliament buildings for two straight days, TASS said.

The Tajik demonstrators are demanding the dissolution of the parliament and the resignation of an old-style Communist installed as president Monday.

TASS quoted Gen. Lobov as saying the Central Asian decree was "fully in line" with the new Defence Ministry instructions.

Soviet troops have long been

used to quash ethnic disputes and independence movements in the republics, often against the wishes of local authorities.

"The refusal by the armed forces to take part in revolving conflicts in the republics... attests to the new Soviet military leadership's desire to deliver the army from external policing functions that it had to perform previously," TASS acknowledged.

All of the remaining Soviet republics have declared some form of sovereignty from the disintegrating central government and many are seeking outright independence.

4 dead in Georgia

Meanwhile, four people were shot dead early Wednesday in a gunfight outside a power station between pro-opposition guardsmen and police loyal to President Zviad Gamsakhurdia, the Georgian leader said.

The deaths, a day after Mr. Gamsakhurdia imposed a state of emergency in Tbilisi, heightened tensions in one of the Soviet Union's most volatile areas and raised the possibility of weeks of confrontation spilling over into a

bloodbath. The nationalist president, under intense pressure to step down, said rebels within the badly divided National Guard had come to the power station outside Tbilisi at 2.30 a.m. with the aim of cutting off the republic capital's power supply.

"They wanted to cut off the electricity supply," Mr. Gamsakhurdia told reporters summoned to his office.

There was no independent confirmation of the deaths, but foreign correspondents were being taken to the power station.

Flashpoints persisted in other widely separated parts of the Soviet Union.

There was no sign of a let-up in the country's most protracted conflict — the mainly Armenian enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh inside Azerbaijan — despite the unexpected signing of an accord to resolve differences between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

In Dushanbe, capital of the Central Asian Republic of Tajikistan, demonstrators packed a central square for the second day running to demand the reinstatement of a moderate leader ousted by Communist deputies.

But the conflict pitting Mr. Gamsakhurdia against an increasingly broad range of opponents had the greatest potential for turmoil and violence.

Opposition accused Mr. Gamsakhurdia of using authoritarian methods, stifling freedom of expression and discriminating against ethnic minorities.

But the former dissident and chief architect of Georgia's drive to secede from the Soviet Union still enjoys considerable support and can muster large crowds at rallies.

The embattled president accused the head of the rebel guard faction of threatening to take control of 11 strategic points in and around Tbilisi.

He also said his dismissed prime minister, and a leading opposition figure, Tengiz Segua was "appealing for bloodshed."

"It is not war yet," he said, adding that he intended to arrest and disarm any rebel members of the National Guard at large.

Mr. Gamsakhurdia said the dead were two rebel guards and

two loyalist officers. Four people had been wounded and two guards had been arrested and were being held inside the station.

The president has been under increasing attack during three weeks of demonstrations as politicians of the Round Table Alliance who helped secure his landslide election in May have defected to opposition ranks.

In announcing emergency rule Tuesday, Mr. Gamsakhurdia told a news conference the opposition had forced his hand by illegal actions, including the occupation of the republic's television centre and other key buildings.

"The situation in Georgia is tense. There was a junta against the president and parliament. They formed an illegal armed military group which has been involved in many illegal acts," he told a news conference Tuesday evening.

"We will make them leave the building but there will be no shooting or force. It will happen only after we mobilise public opinion. People will demand this themselves."

49 killed, hostages seized in Chad army mutiny

N'DJAMENA (R) — Forty-nine people have been killed and hostages, including civilians, seized in an army mutiny in northern Chad, state-run radio said Wednesday.

The government of the central African country blamed the violence on troops loyal to ex-President Hissene Habre, who was ousted last December by a rival military force.

The radio said rebellious soldiers demanding more pay mounted a series of attacks on government troops over the past week in the mountainous Tibesti region, near the Libyan border.

Official sources said 42 people were killed and several injured in a battle last Wednesday when the mutineers held up a convoy carrying army salaries, snatching 14 million CFA francs (\$47,000).

Seven people were killed and 13 injured in a separate attack on a garrison at Bardai, the sources said. Government forces arrested the soldiers as they tried to flee to Libya.

The mutineers took several soldiers and their families hostage Tuesday at the Zoumri military base, the sources said. An official statement said the government was in touch with the mutineers to secure the hostages' release.

Dismissing the pay claim as a smokescreen, the government said the attacks were carried out by troops loyal to Mr. Habre, who was toppled last December by the current President Idriss Deby in a swift military assault from Sudan.

It said the attackers infiltrated from a base in Niger with the aim of destabilising plans for civilian multi-party rule.

Violence spreads in Zaire

BRAZZAVILLE, Congo (Agencies) — Belgium and France sent paratroopers into Zaire to protect foreigners fleeing a violent mutiny by unpaid Zairean soldiers, and French soldiers seized key points in the capital, Kinshasa.

Belgium reports said two days of violence also had spread Tuesday to the mining centre of Kolwezi and Lumbumbashi, in south-eastern Zaire, and Kisangani, in northern Zaire.

One French paratrooper died after the rebellious troops fired on his unit, and 18 Zaireans have died since the violence began Monday in the former Belgian colony.

In Paris, the Foreign Ministry said France sent three companies of paratroopers, about 450 men, to the Central African nation to protect the Kinshasa Airport and French embassy. They entered from the Congo by crossing the two countries' river border.

Belgium also announced it had sent 500 paratroopers to help protect its citizens in Zaire.

Belgian commandos began ferrying hundreds of Belgian nationals from Zaire to neighbouring Congo Wednesday, leading them to safety.

The Foreign Ministry said troops who arrived overnight in the Congolese capital, Brazzaville, had moved into Kinshasa, on the other side of the Zaire River. They were picking up evacuees from assembly points around Kinshasa and taking them to the bank of the river where boats were waiting.

A spokeswoman told a news conference that Hercules military transports and aircraft from the national airline Sabena were standing by in Brazzaville to bring home Belgians who wanted to leave Africa.

Defence Minister Guy Coeune said earlier it was not the aim of the Belgian mission to prop up the government of President Mobutu.

"The prime minister and myself have been very clear. It is a humanitarian mission that aims at evacuating Belgians," he told Belgian Radio.

"There is no question of getting mixed up in the internal affairs of Zaire and very clear instructions have been given to that effect."

French, Belgian and other foreign nationals, meanwhile, were gathering at embassies or other secure locations to await evacuation. About 4,000 French nationals and 11,000 Belgians live in Zaire, Greece, Italy and Portugal also were planning to evacuate their nationals.

About 300 French nationals crossed the Congo river to Brazzaville early Tuesday evening. A Lebanese national evacuated to Harare, Zimbabwe, Tuesday, said his shop in Lumbumbashi was looted and his home burned.

"I have never been so frightened in my life," said Pierre Al Khoury, one of about 250 foreigners who fled to Zimbabwe from Zaire in charter jets.

About 3,000 Zairean paratroopers went on a rampage Monday in the capital, closing the airport and Congo River port and looting stores. Diplomats said the paratroopers hadn't been paid for several months by the bankrupt government.

It was unclear how many Zairean soldiers were involved in the fighting by late Tuesday.

Government-controlled Kinshasa Radio claimed late Monday that troops loyal to President Mobutu Sese Seko had chased the mutineers from the capital.

Landslide buries over 200 in China

BEIJING (R) — A landslide buried 216 villagers in China's southwest Yunnan province, moving with such terrifying speed that all its victims were swallowed up in minutes, a local official said Wednesday.

"It was all over in two minutes," Geng Xin said of the landslide that struck Monday.

The landslide left a gash four kilometres long as it crashed through the rain-drenched mountains of northern Yunnan.

burying 64 homes in its path, she said in a telephone interview from the provincial capital Kunming.

It cut a swathe 300 metres wide and dumped rocks and red earth 30 metres deep. Seven people were injured.

More than 100 troops and police had reached the area with food and medical equipment, Geng said. Several hundred homeless villagers had been evacuated.

Rescue workers had begun the daunting task of digging for bodies under the sea of earth. But their job in one of the most remote areas of Yunnan had been made virtually impossible by continuing bad weather, Mr. Geng said.

"Communications area a real problem out there," she said, explaining why news of the tragedy took several days to filter out. Yunnan Radio reported it only Tuesday.

Japan hopes Russia will turn over islands

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama, in a bold bid to end the main irritant in relations with Moscow, has indicated that Tokyo felt the Russian Republic, and not the Soviet Union, was the key to solving a territorial dispute over the Kurile Islands.

In a speech to the General Assembly, Mr. Nakayama outlined Japan's policy goals towards the new Soviet Union, the most important of which was concluding a peace treaty, "by way of resolving the territorial issue at the earliest possible time."

The dispute over the Kurile Islands, taken by the Soviet Union in the closing days of World War II, has blocked a peace treaty that would put a formal end to the war.

Mr. Nakayama said Japan planned to strengthen its ties with the Soviet republics, particularly the Russian Republic which he hoped would play a significant role in resolving the dispute.

A source close to Mr. Nakayama told Reuters Tuesday the minister planned to go to the Soviet Union in mid-October, for talks with both the Russian and Soviet presidents.

The source said it was hoped the talks would start the process of resolving the territorial dispute.

In Moscow Tuesday the acting speaker of the Russian parliament, back from a recent trip to Tokyo, ruled out a quick return of the islands to Japan.

Ruslan Khasbulatov, who carried a message to Japanese leaders from Russian President Boris Yeltsin, said public opinion would not accept an immediate handover.

But he left the door open for negotiations, saying that all parties concerned, including the largely Russian residents of the Kuriles, should realise that Japanese-Soviet relations had changed.

"One should proceed from the view that Japanese-Russian relations will no longer be those between victors and the vanquished, but will be based on international law, mutual interests and prospects for long-term cooperation," said Mr. Khasbulatov.

"Japan very much appreciates the view expressed by the leadership of the Russian Republic... and hopes to strengthen new cooperative relations along these lines," said Mr. Nakayama, referring to those remarks.

At a news conference shortly before his speech to the General Assembly, Mr. Nakayama spokesman Sadaki Numata said Japan was very encouraged by Mr. Khasbulatov's remarks.

"The Russian Republic will be playing an increasingly important role in our relations over the territorial issue," he said.

Quebec separatists attack new constitutional proposals

MONTREAL (R) — Quebec separatists attacked the Canadian government's new constitutional proposals, blasting them as an attempt by Ottawa to wrest more power from the French-speaking province.

But Quebec's ruling Liberals expressed little reaction to the sweeping reforms proposed earlier in the day by Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney in a last-ditch effort to hold together the Canadian Confederation.

Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa's office said he was not expected to comment on the proposals before meeting with his cabinet.

The proposals, aimed largely at dissuading Quebec from separating from Canada, would confer special status on the province as a "distinct society" entitled to protect its culture and French language.

The federal government struck a deal in 1987, the Meech Lake Accord, granting Quebec "dis-

tinist society" status, but the agreement collapsed in the summer of 1990 after two English-Canadian provinces rejected it. Mr. Bourassa's government, which wants Quebec to remain a part of Canada, was forced by public opinion to announce a referendum for 1992.

Quebec nationalists zeroed in on a proposal giving the federal parliament power to pass laws on "any matter that it declares to be for the efficient functioning of the economic union."

Jacques Brassard, the separatist Parti Quebecois' constitutional expert, said the clause would allow Ottawa to do "almost anything" it wanted to in Quebec by invoking the national interest.

"Ottawa is getting ready to strip Quebec of the few economic powers it has left," said Jean Doreau, president of the ultra-nationalist ST Jean Baptiste Society.

Nationalists were concerned that the clause would allow Cana-

da to interfere in Quebec's economic institutions, which have a tradition of active intervention in the economy.

A few federalist groups welcomed the proposals. The Conseil Du Patronat, grouping Quebec's largest employers, said the package formed "an excellent basis for discussion."

"Quebec has never been so close to gaining acceptance of what it always considered as its most essential demands, namely the true recognition of it as a distinct society," said Conseil Du Patronat President Ghislain Dufour.

The federal government's package also addresses some of the complaints of the nine English-Canadian provinces, recommending the establishment of an elected Senate and the transfer of certain federal powers to the provinces. It would establish self-government for Canada's native Inuit peoples within 10 years.

U.S. House committee rejects effort to shift defence money

WASHINGTON (R) — An effort to shift \$3 billion from the U.S. defence budget to other mainly domestic programmes because of the breakup of the Soviet Union was rejected Tuesday.

The shift was proposed by Democratic Representative David Obey of Wisconsin, chairman of the Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee, but the House of Representatives' Appropriations Committee rejected it 29-15.

Opponents said Mr. Obey's proposal would have required breaking a five-year budget agreement between President George Bush and congressional leaders.

Mr. Obey proposed the money be shifted to veterans' medical care, student aid, job training and emergency food aid to the Soviet Union.

He said the \$291 billion defence budget could be cut because the Warsaw Pact had collapsed, the Baltic countries were independent and Communist power had been outlawed in the Russian Republic.

"It is absurd, under those circumstances, to spend \$5 billion

more for defence next year than we are spending this year," Mr. Obey said.

Mr. Obey tried to attach his proposal to a so-called continuing resolution that would allow U.S. federal agencies for which no money had yet been appropriated in this financial year to continue spending money until Oct. 17. By then their appropriations should have been approved.

Meanwhile a Brookings Institution study Tuesday suggested that U.S. military spending could be cut by at least a third over the next 10 years based on current and projected changes in East-West relations.

The study, prepared by military analysts William Kaufman and John Steinbruner at the privately run think-tank, said the Pentagon budget could be cut to as little as \$169.2 billion in the year 2001 compared to the Pentagon's estimate of \$243.7 billion for that year.

The authors said U.S. defence spending currently remains at nearly \$300 billion a year and that current U.S. Defence Department plans will unnecessarily spend billions "to protect the

United States from enemies that are attempting to become friends, if not outright allies."

In a best-case scenario, the authors said, more than 600 billion dollars could actually be cut in the next decade.

Under the study's 10-year plan, which assumes continuing demilitarisation of the Soviet Union and warming Western relations with North Korea, the authors proposed spending \$2.2 trillion on U.S. defence through the year 2001 compared to \$2.5 trillion projected by the Pentagon.

The study, "Defence Decisions: Fashioning a Military Budget to fit the New World Order," called for ending production of the B-2 Stealth bomber, expected to cost over \$800 million each, at 15 aircraft terminating the C-17 cargo aircraft programme, cancelling the SSN-21 Seawolf submarine programme and deferring deployment of a new single-warhead nuclear missile.

The United States currently plans to cut its armed forces by over 20 per cent — from two million troops to about 1.6 million — by 1995.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Yeltsin to take two weeks holiday

MOSCOW (R) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who last week was reported to be suffering from heart trouble, is to take up to two weeks' holiday from Tuesday, Soviet television said. Mr. Yeltsin, 60, took two days off work last week because of what aides said was a minor heart problem and missed sessions of his Russian Republic's parliament. He then set off on an exhausting mediation mission to the quarrelling trans-Caucasian republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan. From the Azerbaijani capital Baku he flew by military helicopter to the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh and then to Armenia. Mr. Yeltsin then went into 12 hours of gruelling and stormy negotiations in the southern Russian town of Zheleznovodsk, ending at midnight Monday with an agreement on a ceasefire. The burly Russian leader, who has a history of medical problems, looked very tired by the end of the session.

14 executed in China

PEKING (R) — China executed at least 14 people last week for murder, rape and robbery, local newspapers received in Peking Tuesday said. Eight were executed in the northwestern region of Xinjiang for murder and rape, said last Thursday's edition of the Xinjiang daily. Another six were executed in southwestern Sichuan for robbery, said Saturday's Sichuan Daily.

Killer executed in U.S.

JACKSON, Georgia (AP) — Police killer Warren McCleskey was executed early Wednesday. He had dodged the death penalty for 13 years with appeals that led to two landmark Supreme Court rulings. McCleskey died in Georgia's electric chair at 0713 GMT Wednesday. Federal Judge J. Owen Forrester late Tuesday refused to stop the execution. However, he delayed it until early Wednesday to allow the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to review his decision rejecting arguments that a state parole official prejudged McCleskey's clemency plea. The execution initially had been set for 2300 GMT Tuesday. The appeals court denied a stay. Defence attorneys then appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, which Tuesday had voted 6-3 not to stay the execution. The High Court voted on the latest appeal early Wednesday. It rejected a stay, again by a vote of 6-3, and McCleskey was put to death.

Jury indicts U.S. killer in 1978 death

AKRON, Ohio (AP) — A grand jury Tuesday indicted Jeffrey L. Dahmer in the 1978 death of an 18-year-old man whom Dahmer identified as the first of his 17 slaying victims. Mr. Dahmer, 31, was indicted on charges of aggravated murder and kidnapping in the death of Steve Hicks of suburban Coventry Township, Summit County Prosecutor Lynn Slaby said. Mr. Dahmer could be sentenced to consecutive life prison terms if convicted of aggravated murder and seven to 25 years if convicted of kidnapping, Mr. Slaby said. Mr. Dahmer has pleaded innocent by reason of insanity to murder charges in Milwaukee. He was arrested there in July when police found body parts in his apartment after a man told officers Mr. Dahmer had tried to attack him.

Former East German spy master jailed

KARLSRUHE, Germany (R) — East German spy master Markus Wolf spent his first night in united Germany as a prisoner Wednesday after being caught in a legal tug-of-war following his surrender. Mr. Wolf, 68, crossed into Germany from Austria Tuesday to turn himself in after a year on the run from investigators. One of the world's most successful espionage chiefs, he was whisked off to Karlsruhe to face charges of running Communist spies against West Germany during the cold war. After six hours of deliberation, or 12 hours after he set foot in united Germany, Mr. Wolf was freed on 50,000 marks (\$30,000) bail pending trial. Federal prosecutor Alexander Von Stahl immediately appealed against the decision in the Karlsruhe-based Federal Supreme Court, asking it to uphold the arrest warrant. A three-judge panel sat down to discuss the appeal while Mr. Wolf went out to have dinner, but he came back two hours later under a gentleman's agreement, Mr. Von Stahl said. Shortly before midnight, the court ordered Mr. Wolf into jail pending a ruling on the appeal, expected to take a few days.

Soviet first lady recovering

MOSCOW (AP) — Raisa Gorbachev has recovered and is walking around outside her home for the first time since the "nervous shock" of last month's coup against her husband, a presidential spokesman said Tuesday. "As far as I know she's getting quite well, and I was told that she's starting — that she's going out in the city," said Andrei Grachev, the newly appointed spokesman for President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Manila orders Imelda Marcos arrest

MANILA (R) — A Philippine judge Wednesday ordered the arrest of exiled former first lady Imelda Marcos for non-payment of hundreds of millions of dollars worth of taxes. "I have no fear of being arrested in the Philippines," said Mrs. Marcos from New York, brushing aside suggestions that her life may be in danger should she return home. "If you're afraid to go home, you'll be afraid to go anywhere," Wednesday's Manila newspaper Malaya (Free) quoted her as saying. "When it comes to dying or being killed, I am very oriental about the whole thing... if I die, I die," she said. Judge Tomas Tadeo signed the arrest warrant after the government formally charged her with failing to pay 5.7 billion pesos (\$205 million) in taxes. But police will have to wait for Mrs. Marcos's return from more than five years in exile in the United States to serve the arrest order, the judge said.

50,000 expelled from Vietnamese party

BANGKOK (AP) — Vietnam's Communist Party has purged some 50,000 members in four years in order to root out corruption and other misdeeds, an official Vietnamese newspaper reported. "The loss was huge but essential," the army newspaper Quan Doi Nhan Dan said of the expulsions from December 1986 — when the party began nationwide reforms — to September 1990. A text of the Aug. 27 article was seen in Bangkok Wednesday. Vietnam's party, now with nearly 2 million members, has governed the country since the Communist defeated the U.S.-backed South Vietnam government in April 1975. "During the wars of resistance against the French and the Americans, party members stood out as perfect models," the article said. "Yet, in recent years, the people's confidence in party members has, in certain areas, declined at an alarming rate." It said some members have tried to use their positions to acquire special privileges.

'U.S. to remain Pacific military power'

SINGAPORE (AP) — The U.S. military commitment to the Pacific will be sustained regardless of what happens to its bases in the Philippines, the vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said. "The United States is a Pacific nation, with many interests and ties in the region," Adm. David E. Jeremiah told a news conference. "And while we have seen the end of the cold war and remarkable changes in the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe and elsewhere around the globe, our commitment and military presence in the Pacific in our view is separate and isolatable from those events," he said in a prepared statement. "Our changes here in the Pacific, to the extent that there are any, will be modest," unlike major changes planned for Europe, Adm. Jeremiah said. A former commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, Adm. Jeremiah is visiting Singapore, Malaysia and Australia. Apart from Manila, only Singapore in South East Asia has a formal arrangement with Washington under which U.S. warships and planes regularly use military bases.



3 U.S. judges indicted in corruption probe

MIAMI (AP) — A federal grand jury Tuesday indicted three state judges and a former judge on racketeering charges for allegedly taking bribes in exchange for judicial favours. One of the judges also was accused of involvement in an abortive murder conspiracy plot. In its undercover sting investigation, the government used an informant, Attorney Raymond J. Takiff, who pretended to represent a Central American drug cartel and other narcotics traffickers with cases pending in Dade County. Mr. Takiff was once a defence attorney for ousted Panamanian leader Manuel Noriega. He withdrew from that case shortly after the U.S. invasion of Panama. The judges accepted money in exchange for lowering bail, revealing the existence of arrest warrants, releasing confidential information, returning seized property and suppressive evidence, U.S. Attorney Dexter Lehtinen said. The four surrendered in court and were released on personal surety bonds. All four said directly or through their attorneys that they were innocent. They would be found innocent.

Bush names sister to head delegation for Greece

NEW YORK (AP) — President George Bush named his sister Nancy Ellis, of Boston, to head the U.S. delegation to this weekend's 2500th anniversary of the founding of democracy in Athens, Greece. The White House said Tuesday the other members of the delegation are: Archbishop Iakovos, the primate of the Greek Orthodox Church of North and South America; George Argyros, a Costa Mesa, California developer; Andrew Athens, chairman of the United Hellenic American Congress; Donald Kagan, dean of the college at Yale University; and Michael Sotirhos, the U.S. ambassador to Greece.

Love is blind for British bride

LONDON (R) — Bride Margaret Dent put her contact lenses in a drinking glass on her wedding night at a hotel in northern England. Her new husband, Leslie, got thirsty and swallowed them by mistake. Said Margaret, 24: "I couldn't see a thing."

Greece to sell islands to pay state debts

ATHENS (R) — Greece wants to sell some of its Mediterranean islands to help pay off the country's big budget deficit. "The sale of the islands, either on the open market or through land bonds, is government policy," spokesman Byron Polydoras told reporters Monday. Opposition parties sharply criticised government plans to sell islands after news reports over the weekend: National Economy Minister Eghyzios Christodoulou confirmed that 35 small islands off the Peloponnese peninsula would be sold if satisfactory offers were received. The value of the islands was being assessed and the Defence Ministry would have a say on their military potential before a decision to sell was made. The conservative government is struggling to meet its 1991 target of holding the budget deficit to \$14 billion.

Bronze age man found in Austrian glacier

VIENNA (R) — A mummified body found by mountaineers in an Alpine glacier dates back some 4,000 years to the bronze age. Austrian scientists said Tuesday. The body, with an axe in hand and an arm thrown protectively over the face, was covered with dark brown leathery skin. Its hands and feet were intact and some hair was still visible on the head when it was discovered several days ago. "Without a doubt it's 4,000 years old," said Konrad Spindler of Innsbruck University. "We can identify the person as early bronze age. The person was also carrying wood and stone tools and a lighter — that is, a flint in a little bag," said Dr. Kindler, a professor of early history. He said the corpse, whose gender had not yet been identified for sure, was in excellent condition.

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